INSIDE OUT

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

win! 100 gifts under $100 & you can win the lot!*
PAGE 84

comfort & joy

Everything you need to create a beautiful Christmas at home

RAISE THE ROOF
4 clever ways to make the most of your attic

BLOCKTAGON
Neale & Shaynna's space-saving solutions



Bec Judd's style advice



Andrew Winter on selling your home

Gourmet treats *to give your friends & family*



CRIMSON dining table in marble / sheesham, CRISTO dining chairs in black

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Unleash the inner cheer, peeps, it's Christmas time!

Well, what do you know? It's nearly Christmas again! Earlier this year, I saw a funny post on Facebook declaring that winter had "caught Australia by surprise for the 227th time". It made me laugh. I think that's what Christmas does to most of us every year. Even better, many of us bemoan the fact that the department stores and retailers in general are bringing out the decorations earlier and earlier, and yet we still get flustered right at the December 18 mark.

Anyway, the point is, I know this is our November issue, and is therefore coming at Christmas a little sooner than you might expect, but we're here to help! To inspire and get you all excited about creating some beautiful new decorations, turn to page 77. Or, if you're nothing like me and like to get your shopping done early, turn to page 84 where you'll find our annual gift guide: 100 gifts under $100 and even better, you could win the whole lot if you enter the comp on page 95. That'll help get the Christmas shopping done – maybe just make sure you're home for the delivery!

After you've made it through the festive cheer and decorations, head down the back of the magazine and you'll find a few stories that might help you get through the madness. Many of us long for the break at the end of the year to prepare for the one ahead. If you're planning to sell your home any time soon, you might want to consider doing it without the help (or costly hindrance) of a real-estate agent. Gasp! Or, if you're not that adventurous, how about a new attic extension? No flowers necessary.

Claire

PS. Got an upcoming reno and need some inspiration? Turn to page 138 where you can see how Minosa share their presentation of concepts to their clients. Pretty impressive!



my 3 picks

I have my eye on these three presents from the gift guide on page 84. One is for my mum, one is for a good friend and one is for my sister-in-law. But who'll get what? Only Santa Claus and I know!



WRITE IN TO WIN You could win a kitchenware set from Marimekko, valued at $341.50. The set includes a chopping board, pitcher, bowl, teatowel and a set of 6 mugs. Visit marimekko.com for a look at the 'Purnukka' collection. To enter, tell us, in 25 words or fewer, what you'll be making for Christmas lunch. **TO ENTER** Send entries (with your contact details) to 'Inside Out Marimekko' competition, Locked Bag 5030, Alexandria NSW 2015 or email insideout@newsltd.com.au.

Follow me on Instagram *@clairebradley_ed*

PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH. HAIR & MAKEUP: SAM POWELL. COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS: ENTRIES OPEN 22/10/15 AT 00.01 AEDT AND CLOSE 25/11/15 AT 23.59 AEDT. AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER ONLY. ONE WINNER DETERMINED ON 30/11/15 AT 16.00 AEDT AT NEWSLIFEMEDIA PTY LTD, LEVEL 1, 2 HOLT STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY TELEPHONE AND IN WRITING. THIS IS A GAME OF SKILL AND CHANCE PLAYS NO PART IN DETERMINING THE WINNER. TOTAL PRIZE POOL VALUED AT $341.50. FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT INSIDEOUT.COM.AU AND SEARCH FOR 'NOVEMBER ISSUE'. PRIVACY POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT NEWSCORPAUSTRALIA.PRIVACY.COM


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our cover look

Spending Christmas Day in the sunshine near the beach is the way we'd choose to celebrate, and Jennifer and Adrian's holiday home fits the bill. With its incredible view of the Victorian coastline, imagine the magical feeling of Christmas morning here with presents under a decked-out tree. For more on how to get this festive look, turn to page 26 for the style details.

Photography: Armelle Habib
Styling: Heather Nette King

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HOME TREND

get the cover look

Make Christmas at home a sunny affair with seaside blue tones, natural elements and a touch of sparkle

COVER STYLING **HEATHER NETTE KING** COVER PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**



ADDITIONAL PRODUCT STYLING LIANA HAKIM. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

1. & 2. Gold **tree topper**, $24.95, and aqua and gold finial and round hanging **ornaments**, $12.95 each, My Christmas, mychristmas.com.au. **3.** 'Gaia Wool Natural Formations' wool **carpet** in Three Sisters, from $78.10/sqm, Carpet Court, carpetcourt.com.au. **4.** By Lassen 'Kubus 4' **candleholder** in White, $175, Urban Couture, urbancouture.com.au. **5. & 6.** 'Alby' **ottoman** in Tan leather, $1924, and 'Nook' angled modular **sofa** in 'Duffle Navy' fabric, $11,100, Jardan, jardan.com.au. **7.** Down To The Woods 'Dear Santa' and 'Snow Reindeer' **Santa sacks**, $69.95 each, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au. **8.** 'Iko' **coffee table** in Oak, $2270, Jardan, as before. **9. 10. & 11.** 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paints** in Temperate Tide and Gentle Wind, $56.90/4L, and Costa Rica Blue, $60.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525.


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CHECK US OUT

here's what you'll find **this month** at our *online home*



how to make the perfect bed

Check out our series of how-to videos with interior stylist Lisa Koehler



head to our guides section:

Secret Santa gift ideas for under $50

best backyard pools

Create the perfect place to cool off when the heat is on with our gallery of inspiring designs and ideas

#iohideandseat

Do you love a puzzle? It's *Where's Wally?* with mini iconic chairs. Can you find the one hidden on our website? **Share a shot on Instagram, tag @insideoutmag and use the hashtag #iohideandseat to share where it is!**

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tweet alert

The @BigDesignMarket is on Dec 4-6 (great timing for Christmas shopping duties!)



behind the scenes

For an on-set glimpse at the Christmas decorating story that market editor Joseph Gardner created on page 64 (with help from assistant Georgia Harrington), log onto our Facebook.



bonus photographs

Did you like our cover story on page 98? You can check out more images from this holiday-ready home on our site, as styled by Heather Nette King and photographed by Armelle Habib.



pinboard inspiration

Pick up ideas from back issues on our Pinterest. Here's our Black Star Pastry feature from the November/December 2013 edition. Styling by Aleksandra Beare. Photography by Craig Wall.



staff Instagram

While in New York, our chief sub-editor @virginia_jen spotted inspiration for her new apartment. The courtyard at @cafe_colette in Brooklyn has the relaxing and inviting vibe she's after.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (POOL) DEREK SWALWELL. STYLING: (POOL) RACHEL VIGOR

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Inside Out is published by NewsLifeMedia Pty Ltd (ACN 088 923 906), Level 1, 2 Holt St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. ISSN 1443-6043. NewsLifeMedia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of News Corp Australia (ACN 007 871 178).

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things we love



bright idea

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Hem 'Alphabeta' pendant lights by Luca Nichetto, from $650 each, District, district.com.au.



Let's address the elephant in the room.

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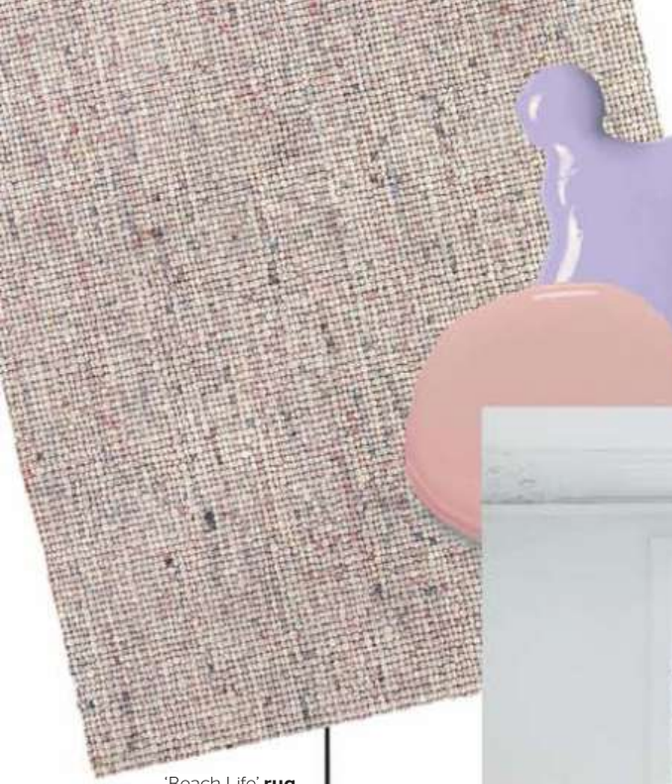
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'Beach Life' **rug** in Marshmallow, $2150/160cm x 230cm, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets, halcyon lake.com.

Interior Expressions low sheen acrylic **paints** in Veronese Peach and Gray's Lily, $38.95/litre, Haymes Paint, haymespaint.com.au.



When Objects Work 'Pebbles' **vase**, $925, Hub Furniture, (03) 9652 1222.



'Elle Pipe' **coffee table**, $1375, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.



Zero Lighting 'Fog' **pendant light** by Front, from $995, Great Dane, (03) 9682 2777.



'Airlie' **ceiling rose**, $129, Schots Home Emporium, schots.com.au.



Knoll 'Bertoia Diamond' **armchair** by Harry Bertoia, from $2123, Dedece, dedece.com.



Örsjö Belysning 'Baklava' **floor lamp**, $1950, Great Dane, as before.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (MAIN) MARCUS LAWETT. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

ROOMS WE LOVE

subtle beauty

Soft colour and statement pieces take this living area to a new level of sophistication

COMPILED BY **JOSEPH GARDNER**



Staple&Co 'Louis' **sofa** with slip cover, $7090, Project 82, project82.com.au.

'Flocca' **cushions** in Melanz and Lila, $64 each, Hale Mercantile Co., hale mercantileco.com.

what's on our radar

Discover each month what's hot, what's on its way out and what designs continue to endure and inspire



TRENDING

What's in... rattan

As signalled by several pieces at Milan Furniture Fair, this classic look is getting a revival. 'The Iconic' sideboard by Kira & Kira, $2950, Urban Couture, urbancouture.com.au.

On its way out copper

After being overexposed in homewares and furniture designs for the past few years, it's nice to see some other precious metals sneaking in.



THE COOLEST THING WE'VE SEEN LATELY

Chloe Vallance ditched the canvas and painted onto stools, crates and vases by Like Butter at the Sydney Contemporary art fair at Carriageworks. Visit chloevallance.com and likebutter.com.au for more details.

CULT CLASSIC

'SAXE' FOLDING CHAIR BY MOGENS LASSEN

The form: A folding timber lounge chair with leather sling. **What makes it special:** Designed by Danish architect Mogens Lassen, the 'Saxe' chair is a beautifully detailed and delicate expression of the folding chair genre. Originally created for the 1955 Cabinet Makers' Guild Competition and made by master joiner A.J. Iversen, the chair has been reissued through By Lassen, the company set up by Lassen's grandson and great-granddaughter. Featuring studs and hinges in brass, the chair is made up of two opposing boomerang shapes, with a thick leather sling between. Designed as an occasional chair to be brought out when required, it has none of the usual folding seat compromises and looks at home as a permanent lounge chair. In black stained oak with black leather, it almost appears Italian in its slick modernity; while in natural oak and vegetable-tanned leather (shown), it offers a Scandinavian look. Somewhere in between is the third option – a dark oiled oak version with brown leather. **Expect to pay:** $1980. **Buy at:** Fred International, fredishere.com.au.



OZHARVEST

UP TO

$10 billion worth of food is wasted in Australia each year, according to Virgin Mobile and OzHarvest's *#mealforameal campaign*. Make the most of your Christmas leftovers and share a snap with the hashtag!

Sydney Open returns on November 1, *sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/sydneyopen*.

EDITED BY LEE TRAN LAM. WORDS: (CULT CLASSIC) DAVID HARRISON. SOURCING: (TRENDING) JOSEPH GARDNER. PHOTOGRAPHY: (INSTAGRAM) LEE TRAN LAM

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3 OF A KIND

greeting cards

Get your message across with one of these designer options

EDITED BY **MATILDA DUFFECY**





Beth Hoeckel for AHD Paper Co.

DESIGNER: Beth Hoeckel

Despite the fact that artist and designer Beth Hoeckel creates the artworks for her cards in Baltimore, USA, the hyper-real scapes are unlike anything on this planet. While her artworks, which start as collages, are inspired by "the simple yet exquisite wonders of nature around us", Beth manages to capture a striking perspective with a bit of celestial stardust scattered through. "They are like a fantasy world, but one not unlike the real world – just slightly more surreal; like an enhanced reality," says Beth. The range of cards marks a collaboration between Beth and Chris and Kara Town of AHD Paper Co. in Adelaide, with Beth's designs joining a hub of creative card options.

$5.95 each, ahdpaperco.com.



Fluid Ink Letterpress

DESIGNER: Davina Farinola

The craft of letterpress is at the heart of Davina's work, as she uses a 1913 Chandler & Price platen press to create her cards. This does somewhat restrict her options but, by the same token, leads to the unique look of her collection. "At its core, the press was made to reproduce text, to convey information to the masses, and this beckons me back to typographic and line-based designs," explains Davina. Producing the cards in her Perth studio requires patience and care: "Once I'm happy with the design, the files are separated and rendered in a 3D raised relief (photopolymer plates). These plates are mounted in the letterpress and each card is hand-fed through the machine, with repeats required for more than one colour." The textured appeal of Davina's cards gives them a design-savvy appeal, and a pun thrown in for good measure only brightens the finished product. We absolutely 'heart' them.

From $6.50 each, fluidinkletterpress.com.au.





I Ended Up Here

DESIGNER: Dan Adams

A crackle of cockatoos, a scoop of pelicans, a squabble of seagulls and a flamboyance of flamingoes – the look of birds is as fascinating as the language used to describe a flock of them. Sydney-based designer Dan Adams also finds the broad spectrum of feathered species a fine way to showcase his illustration style and approach to colour for his 'The Flock' range of cards. But perfecting his take on various birds is the key to the cards' success. "I sketch them first before drawing them up digitally – there are a couple that seem to have a permanent home in the 'work in progress' folder and may never see the light of day," says Dan. For a project that started in 2012 as a part-time deal, the increasing popularity of the cards shows that Dan's designs are really flying.

$6.95 each, iendeduphere.com.au.



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more give, less take









Kara Rosenlund (below, with husband Timothy) captures the way Australians live in her new book. Kara is drawn towards historical properties, such as Bill Moseley and Genevieve Carroll's **(top right)** and artist Lucy Culliton's **(right)**.



PROFILE

Kara Rosenlund

From a boatshed on a remote Tasmanian island to a Victorian tram, this stylist and photographer found unique homes for her new book, *Shelter*

WORDS **LEE TRAN LAM**

In *Shelter*, you talk to people who live in one-of-a-kind dwellings: an apple orchard hut, a butter factory and more. What was the most unusual home you came across? Photographer Bill Moseley and artist Genevieve Carroll's residence in the former gold rush village of Hill End, NSW. The home hadn't been lived in for more than 50 years and, with the help of friends in the village, Bill and Genevieve rebuilt a crumbling ruin. It's a hive of separate buildings, which are all nestled very close to one another.

You meet a lot of memorable characters – was there anyone who stayed with you, long after you met? Most people have stayed with me. I think when you are welcomed into someone's home, guards are let down and true friendship develops. Those experiences are never easily forgotten. I often think of artist Lucy Culliton. I think of her big heart and welcoming nature, and how much of herself she gives to injured wildlife and unwanted animals.

How did you fit in 'normal life' around this project? Did you do other work around these trips? I never seem to make anything easy for myself – I think I missed out on the 'practical' gene. Earning money had to be a priority, as it was funding the road trip. So, once a job was complete, I'd be 'on the book', and I'd fall back down the rabbit hole for a month or so.

Did you pick up souvenirs from your visits? Always. The souvenirs weren't from shops; I'd collect them from the landscape – camel bones from the desert, seaweed – natural elements that I'd send home. One time, my delivery man busted a box and he was very confused by the emu legs – it was roadkill I'd found.



Shelter by Kara Rosenlund ($59.99, Lantern) is out now.

To follow Kara's adventures, visit *kararosenlund.com*.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) KARA ROSENLUND (BOOK STILL LIFE) SAM McADAM-COOPER. (HOMES) EXTRACT FROM *SHELTER* BY KARA ROSENLUND ($59.99, LANTERN). STYLING: (PORTRAIT) MEGAN MORTON

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ask an expert

Each issue, we'll find stylish solutions to all your decorating and design dilemmas from those in the know



Lisa Koehler is the interior decorator on our renovation specialists Panel (for more on the Panel, turn to page 144). Here are her tips on bringing spark to an empty fireplace.

Q I'd love to hear any ideas on how to deal with an old fireplace when replacing it isn't an option. Ours is less an example of 'character' and more just dated.
@cuppawhisky via Instagram

First, you could paint the inside black, as dark colours recede; or if you have neutral walls, you could update the inside with the same shade and make the mantelpiece a statement element. Options for styling could be as simple as filling a tray – such as the 'Nomad' tray (pictured left, $79.95) or the 'Notre Monde' tray ($295), both from Papaya, (papaya.com.au) – with battery-operated candles (safety first!). The effect works best when candles are *en masse*. Also, consider displaying a beautiful stack of books or a woven basket to house throw rugs and cushions – try the jute basket in Charcoal from Table Tonic ($105, tabletonic.com.au).



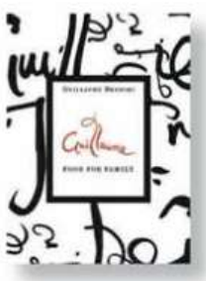
Q I have six-year-old twin daughters. They want to share a room and we are stuck as to how to decorate – 'matchy' but different? *Jacynta Lenton via Facebook*

Keeping it cohesive – while adding individuality – is key, say bloggers Rebecca Lowrey Boyd and Lisa Tilse of We Are Scout. "To get the 'matchy' look, use colour. Set two dominant tones as the base palette – assign a shade for each daughter's space. Now for the fun part – let the girls choose pieces in 'their' colour. Find items in prints and patterns that tie the zones together. Hang different art by their bedsides, using the same frames to keep the look cohesive. You could make mobiles to hang above their beds using their colours – for example, the 'Geo' paper mobile (shown) at we-are-scout.com."



Q Can you suggest a few easy tips to make entertaining less stressful?
Liz via email

"Keep the menu simple and have as much as possible prepared before your guests arrive – so you can spend time with them when they get there," says **Guillaume Brahimi, chef, restaurateur and author of *Guillaume: Food For Family*** ($79.99, Penguin/Lantern). "Don't try to make everything from scratch if you don't have the time. Invest in great quality bread and pasta," he adds. And don't be too ambitious – it's best to cook tried-and-true favourites that you know will work.



designer tip
Keep it simple and use organic-shaped servingware to let your meals shine.

EDITED BY LEE TRAN LAM. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH; (MAIN) JEREMY SIMONS; (MOBILE) LISA TILSE. (RUG) LUISA BRIMBLE. STYLING: (MAIN) JOSEPH GARDNER. FOOD STYLING: BERNADETTE SMITHIES



Q Do you have some non-wool (but non-acrylic) rug ideas for allergy sufferers?
@cindi_sam via Instagram

Our **market editor Joseph Gardner** suggests the 100-per-cent-cotton range from Langdon Ltd – such as this 'Pom Pom' rug ($580, langdonltd.com.au) – or the flatweave rugs from Armadillo&Co (armadillo-co.com), which are great choices for allergy sufferers. For specific cases, Brintons (brintons.net) stocks 'Healthcare' carpets that can be used for some residential projects.

Send us your questions via Facebook or Instagram or email *insideout@newsltd.com.au*.

new



IN GOOD TASTE

Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt

Combining thick, creamy yoghurt with on-trend flavours like boysenberry and vanilla, Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt is created for lovers of fine food. Try our other taste sensations – sophisticated salted caramel and smooth butterscotch and vanilla bean.

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COLOUR TREND

sky blue & red

Opposites attract with this refreshing pairing of calming light blue with red-hot accents

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER**

1. 'HD3' **wall lamp** in Red, from $191.40, ISM Objects, ismobjects.com.au. **2 & 3.** 'Clean & Protect' interior low sheen **paints** in Pick Me Up, $56.90/4L, and Red Bauble, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au. **4.** Hem 'Alle' **coffee table** in Light Blue, $635, District, district.com.au. **5.** 'Latte' **pendant light** in Mint, from $749, ISM Objects, as before. **6.** Hay 'New Order' **shelving system**, $5047, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **7.** Hay 'Braid' **quilt** in Sand, $407, Cult, as before. **8.** Studio Mute 'Border Wide' canister in Turquoise, Natural & Red, $139, Gingko Leaf, gingkoleaf.com.au. **9.** Moroso 'Love (Me) Tender' **sofa** by Patricia Urquiola, POA, Hub Furniture, hubfurniture.com.au. **10.** Miu Miu **eau de parfum**, $130/50ml, Myer, myer.com.au. **11.** Moroso 'Mathilda' **chairs** by Patricia Urquiola, from $1895 each, Hub Furniture, as before.

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



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TOP 10 PICKS

’70s vibe

Veneer furniture, retro tones and vivid patterns are making a comeback. Can you dig it?

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER**

1. *Welcome* framed photographic **print**, from $950, The Artwork Stylist, theartworkstylist.com.au. **2.** Frandsen ‘Ball’ brass hanging **lamp**, $249, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. **3.** ‘Arthur’ **side table**, $2827, Jardan, jardan.com.au. **4.** Antique Indian silk **cushion**, $350, Fenton & Fenton, fentonandfenton.scom.au. **5.** ‘Noah’ **sideboard**, $3882, Jardan, as before. **6.** ‘Line’ wall-mounted **light**, $398, Douglas And Bec, douglasandbec.com. **7.** IVV ‘Niagara’ **tumbler**, $120/assorted set of 6, Noritake, noritake.com.au. **8.** ‘The Dreamer’ **sofa** in Gold, $4740, Pop & Scott, popandscott.com. **9.** Gastón Y Daniela ‘Javier’ **cotton** in Tabaco, POA, Domestic Textile Corporation, domestictextile.com.au. **10.** Walter Knoll ‘Healey’ **lounge chair** by Pearson Lloyd, from $4061, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.

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BEST BUYS

stockings & sacks

Keep gifts under wraps for Christmas morning delight with these ideas

STYLING **DANIELLE SELIG** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**

On mantelpiece, from left: Ferm Living 'Gold Splash' Christmas stocking, $49, Norsu Interiors, norsu.com.au. **'Star' stocking in Copper**, $30, Cabin Co Interiors, cabinco.com.au. **'Red Stripe' knitted stocking**, $60, Papier D'Amour, papierdamour.com.au. **On floor, from left: 'Toscana' washable paper drawstring storage sack**, $129, Uashmama, uashmama.com.au. **'Christmas Delivery' Santa sack in Copper**, $50, Cabin Co Interiors, cabinco.com.au. **Hay 'Box Box' boxes**, $135/assorted set of 5, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **'White Cross' basket**, $49, Zakkia, zakkia.com.au. **Sack made from 'Ruutu-Unikko' fabric**, $85/m, Marimekko, marimekko.com. *Objects of Free Use* brass **sculptures** by Anna Varendorff, from $160 each, annavarendorff.com. Vitra miniature Eames 'Moulded Rocker (RAR)' **chair**, $290, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au. 'Unix' polished brass **light**, $4598, Christopher Boots, christopherboots.com. 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Glazed Ruby, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: GEORGIA HARRINGTON AND NATALIE JOHNSON. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



BEST BUYS

wreaths

It's time to decorate your front door again. Here are some new twists on a traditional favourite

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**

Clockwise, from above: Christmas wreath, $62, Foiling Star, foilingstar.etsy.com. **Fresh eucalyptus wreath**, $80, Hermetica Flowers, hermeticaflowers.com.au. **'Scandi' wall decorations**, $14.95 each, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au. **Down to the Woods 'Oro' wreath**, $115, The Woodsfolk, as before. **'Book Page' wreath**, from $125, Paper Couture, papercouture.net.au. **'Double Circlet' brass wreath**, $190, A.C.V Studio, acvstudio.com. **'Bell' wreath**, $59.95, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **'Felt' wreath**, $110, The Woodsfolk, as before. **Ribbon and paper**, stylist's own.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: GEORGIA HARRINGTON AND NATALIE JOHNSON



time to redesign





The 'Touch&Slide' induction cooktop will not only help you cook up a storm, it'll also give your kitchen a sleek and sophisticated edge.

THE KITCHEN IS THE HEART OF THE HOME. FISHER & PAYKEL WANTS TO HELP YOU CREATE YOUR DREAM SPACE WITH THE PERFECT BALANCE OF FUNCTION AND STYLE

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Shopping for new kitchen appliances? Tick the style and quality boxes with this offer! This offer is based on total spend (in a single transaction) on eligible Fisher & Paykel kitchen appliances purchased between October 1, 2015 and November 29, 2015. Rebate value is based on total spend. Minimum total spend is $3000 to participate. Offer via online redemption only. Redemptions close February 29, 2016. To claim the rebate and for full terms and conditions, visit fisherpaykel.com.au/promotions.

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NEWSLIFEMEDIA CREATIVE SERVICES

3 KEY PIECES

all grown up

Summer will never be too far away for your 10-year-old girl with her own vibrant paradise

STYLING **PHOEBE McEVOY** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**





1 Hanging a net above a bed creates a simple but pretty canopy that allows the sunlight to filter through, as your girl gets comfy with a good book. 'Bryne' **net**, $14.99, IKEA, ikea.com.au.

2 Rattan furniture epitomises the tropical look. The open weave and handcrafted feel brings relaxed appeal to this space. Down To The Woods 'Lazy Days' **daybed**, $895, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au.





"Bring the fun factor to this look with bright and playful summer fruit prints"
PHOEBE McEVOY, STYLIST



'Coco' **hanging chair**, $499, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs, byron-bay-hanging-chairs.myshopify.com.



'Fruity' **wall stickers**, $29.95/assorted set of 25, Jimmy Cricket, jimmycricket.com.au.

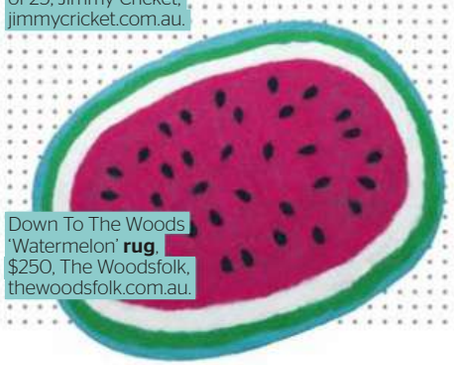
3 Create an exotic oasis with a painterly wallpaper of vivid blooms and lush greenery. 'Florale Lise's Jungle' **wallpaper**, $123.50/lineal metre, Emily Ziz Style Studio.





STORAGE

In keeping with the bold yet chilled-out vibe of your tween's room, go with colourful bags for storing accessories. 'Striped' **storage bag**, $79, Urbaani Homewares, urbaani.com.au.



Down To The Woods 'Watermelon' **rug**, $250, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: SINEAD AMBROSE AND MEREY BARRETT. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. JASMINE WEARS STRIPED SLEEVELESS TANK, $25.95, AND SLIM JEANS, $99.95; SEED HERITAGE, SEEDHERITAGE.COM. *ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND* BOOK BY LEWIS CARROLL, $39.99, ARIEL BOOKSELLERS, ARIELBOOKSCOM.AU. *THIS IMAGE IS SHOT IN A STUDIO AND SHOULD SERVE AS GENERAL INSPIRATION ONLY. CONSIDER WHETHER THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE PURCHASING

AND THE REST... On daybed: 'Kahlo' **cushion** in Black & White, $199, and 'Amelie' **cushion** in Emerald, $145, Sage x Clare. Eurodice 'Gerani' **cushion**, $250, Spence & Lyda. 'Watermelon' **cushion**, $44, Down That Little Lane. 'Coco' **cushion cover**, $75, Ourlieu. 'Banana' **cushion**, $66, Made By Mosey. 'Ilsa' **blanket**, $259, Sage And Clare. 'Cha Cha Cha' **doona cover** (used as sheet), $180/single, Feliz Home. **On bedside:** Heico 'Pineapple' **lamp**, $170, Kido Store. **Coin bank**, $54.95, Concrete Blonde. 'Ice Cream' **skipping rope**, $12.95, Invite Me. 'Heirloom' **toy camera**, $75, Leo & Bella. 'Twist' **side table** with drawer, $1039, Sounds Like Home. **On floor:** 'Dipped' **belly basket**, $35, Olli Ella. Feather **garland**, $59.95, Lark. Sons + Daughters **sunglasses**, $99.95, Kido Store. Ferm Living 'Triangles' jute **rug**, $89, Norsu Interiors. **On wall:** Down To The Woods 'Eye' **mirror**, $179.95, The Woodsfolk. Wall in 'Eggshell Acrylic' **paint** in Seven Seas, and dado rail in 'Eggshell Acrylic' **paint** in Wild Strawberry, both $43.20/1L, Porter's Paints. **ADDRESS BOOK** page 164



attention to detail

Bec Judd of blog Rebecca Judd Loves is helping renovators make changes with her online styling series. Here are her small-space tips

STYLING **JULIA GREEN** PHOTOGRAPHY **ANNETTE O'BRIEN**

For Bec Judd, The Style School online video series is all about helping the thousands of people following her on social media who love what she did with her home. "I started it in response to the constant questions I'd receive on Instagram about every single item in my house – from cushions to wall colour, plants, furniture, door handles or timber stain. You name it, I was asked where it was from," says Bec. With that in mind, she wanted to create a digital series where she could share that information both in still images and videos. Teaming up with stylist Julia Green, the series explains how to style a space and where to buy everything seen in the rooms. This time around, a small unit gets a makeover.



DESIGN TRICKS Compact areas require playing with proportion to create an illusion. Bec and Julia went with "lighter timber furniture with tapered legs to add a sense of space".

THE TABLE "You can't go wrong with a round table in a small space. It's only one metre across but comfortably seats four people – I reckon I could squeeze six, though!" says Bec.

WORK NOOK "This corner was dead space before we had these corner shelves made by Aarden Design. It creates the functional space of a study without taking up an entire room. It is a two-bedroom unit after all," says Bec.



KITCHEN What's key to a limited kitchen floorplan? "Functionality as everything needs to be there for a reason; great design, such as some cheeky space-saving cabinetry contraptions; and a little flair thrown in," says Bec.



ARTWORK: (LIVING AREA) *EVENING SHADOW* BY ALI MCNABNEY-STEVENS, ALIMCNABNEYSTEVENS.COM. (DINING AREA) *PINK HOUSE ROAD* BY LUMIERE ART + CO, LUMIEREARTANDCO.COM.AU. (WORK NOOK) *FLAT LAY III* BY KIMMY HOGAN, KIMMYHOGAN.COM.AU

PALETTE "I chose the overall colour scheme around the mint AGA oven, which blew my mind. I wanted the rest of the room to complement it while keeping its place as the hero feature of the room," says Bec.



SURFACES Bec's advice when it comes to the big surface decisions is to keep it neutral and earthy, and add colour with accessories and furnishings. "It's much cheaper and you're less inclined to change your mind," says Bec.

You can watch The Style School series 2 every Wednesday on Bec Judd's blog, *rebeccajuddloves.com.au*.

THE BLOCK

inside the room

Find *all the style details* you need to get these looks from *The Block*



KINGI & CARO

WINNER!



'Lyonne' **mirror**, $399, Freedom, freedom.com.au.





Mizu 'Bloc 520' **vessel basin**, $326, Reece, reece.com.au

+



Phoenix 'Kubus 180' **wall basin outlet**, $91, Reece, as before.

+



Roca 'The Gap' back-to-wall **toilet**, $560, Reece, as before.



LUKE & EBONY



Try the Sussex 'Scala' straight **wall basin mixer system**, from $569, Reece, reece.com.au.

+



'Luxury Egyptian' **bath towel** in Graphite, $49.95 each, Sheridan, sheridan.com.au.

+



'Fusion Hex Blend' glazed porcelain **tile**, from $84.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, beaumont-tiles.com.au.

+



'Talia' rectangle **storage basket**, $59.95, Freedom, freedom.com.au.



PHOTOGRAPHY: NINE NETWORK AUSTRALIA

reveals

PRODUCT SOURCING **DANIELLE SELIG**



'Nuvo' **table lamp**, $149, Beacon Lighting, beaconlighting.com.au.

'Uni' **mobile pedestal** with 2 box drawers and 1 file drawer, $240, Unispace Furniture, unispacefurniture.com.au.

'Confetti' **rug**, $699, Freedom, as before.

'Mercury' **hurricane lantern**, from $19.95, Freedom, as before.



'Lucky' **table lamp**, $169, Freedom, as before.

'Kennedy Wing' **dining chair**, $695, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.

Reindeer hide, $595, Abode Living, abodeliving.com.

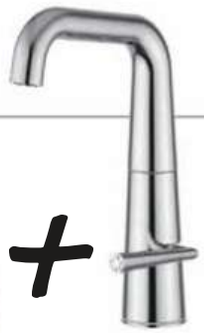
Quick-step 'Palazzo' timber **flooring** in Mocca Oak Matt, $109/sqm, Carpet Court, carpetcourt.com.au.



WHITNEY & ANDY



Laufen 'Ilbagnoalessi One 520' wall **pedestal basin**, $2043, Reece, reece.com.au.



Teknobili 'Likid 118/3' **basin mixer**, $606.99, Reece, as before.



Grey marble **canister**, $21, The Shelley Panton Store, shop.shelleypanton.com.





SUZI & VONNI

Shadow **box** in Copper, $105, Horgans, horgans.com.au.



'Touchstone Nero Honed' porcelain **tile**, from $55.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, beaumont-tiles.com.au.





Alape 'Circa 450' above-counter vessel **basin**, $831, Reece, reece.com.au.



'Horn/Shell' **bottle**, $95, Horgans, as before.



DEAN & SHAY



Samsung 'DV80F5E5HGW' 8kg heat pump **dryer**, $1946, The Good Guys, thegoodguys.com.au.



'Black Oxide' porcelain **tile**, from $99/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, beaumont-tiles.com.au.



Samsung 'WW8000' 10kg front load **washer**, $1598, The Good Guys, as before.



PHOTOGRAPHY: NINE NETWORK AUSTRALIA



Teak **stool**, $99, The Shelley Panton Store, as before.

'Casa' trestle **dining table** with glass top, from $1790, Weylandts, weylandts.com.au.

Cowhide, from $399, Supply & Demand, supplyanddemand.com.au.



'Curio' **dome**, $139, Horgans, as before.

Multi Mini Books **wall art**, $1080, Horgans, as before.

'Provincial Lane' stained oak timber strip **flooring** in Macadamia, $60/sqm, Carpet Court, carpetcourt.com.au.

Serving **tray**, $105, Horgans, as before.

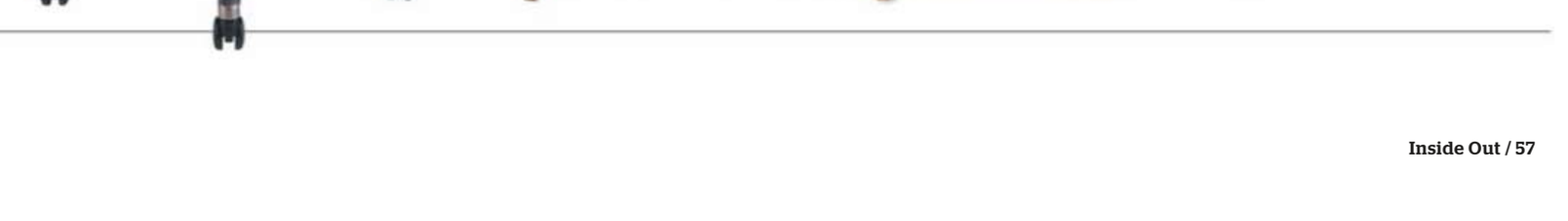


'Astor' **office chair**, $349, Freedom, freedom.com.au.

Linen House 'Kew' **cushion** in Blush, $39.95, Forty Winks, fortywinks.com.au.

Robert Gordon copper **wastepaper basket**, $49.95, Cranmore House, cranmorehome.com.au.

'Assemblages' **shelves**, $385, Lightly, lightly.com.au.



judges' verdict

the top three

Recently, Neale and Shaynna saw the contestants focus on small rooms – the study, powder room and laundry. Here are their top considerations when it comes to designing these spaces with both style and functionality in mind

small spaces



The Block judge and editor-in-chief of *Vogue Living*, Neale Whitaker. **Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @nealewhitaker**

Small spaces are so often overlooked but they are jewels in the crown from a real-estate perspective. With so many of us living in open-plan homes, you can't underestimate the importance of studies, laundries and powder rooms.

1. Studies are tricky areas in open-plan apartments because they need to be both functional and good-looking. In all the series of *The Block* that I've judged, I've always road-tested the desk seating. Could I imagine myself sitting here for several hours at a stretch? If I can't, it's a fail. For me, the best versions are those that offer plenty of concealed storage (there is rarely beauty in piles of unpaid bills); a degree of privacy; good lighting (task and overhead); a good deep desk; and plenty of power points. From a decor point of view, the study area should take its cues from the style of the living area. Shay and Dean's was the most successful study (pictured), whilst Suzi and Vonni's was the weakest. Totally impractical, they created a study without functionality that felt like a stage set.



2. Laundries should connect stylistically with the kitchen or bathroom. Functionality is king here – aesthetics are important but purpose should be the primary consideration. What do you need? Consider use and storage – in many homes, the laundry is where you'll find the brooms and the ironing board. And ask yourself, do you really need that sink?

3. The powder room is where you can break the rules. It will always be a concealed space, so designers and renovators often use it as an opportunity to surprise. The powder room is where you can use that antique mirror that doesn't work anywhere else or the crazy wallpaper or tiles that you fell in love with. Just remember that a powder room doesn't need to function like a bathroom or ensuite. It only needs a small basin and storage requirements are minimal. Some of the best powder rooms I've seen over the years have been real little jewel boxes. Luke and Ebony's worked well, as did Shay and Dean's. Andrew and Whitney's bidet didn't impress us judges at all – it felt dated and unnecessary.

style & design choices



The Block judge and interior designer, Shaynna Blaze. **Follow her on Instagram and Twitter: @shaynnablaze**

A laundry is all about pure function but, at the same time, you want to include a comfortable aesthetic so you don't feel like you're being punished for spending time in there. Powder rooms are no longer the forgotten room and can give your guests the surprise of luxury. You can add a little more personality than the main bathroom, but you still have to make sure it is in keeping with the rest of the interior.

1. Surfaces and lighting are key to making the space work, particularly the flooring and the benches. Floor tiles that aren't high maintenance are the key to keeping it fresh. Tiles that have a grain or slight pattern with a low sheen finish are perfect – stay away from glossy tiles. Andy and Whitney's (pictured), and Shay and Dean's tiles had a great detail in them with a matt finish to hide daily traffic. Caro and Kingi's concrete benchtop in the bathroom was not just practical but gave that special unexpected statement in a powder room.

You can go a little more moody and subtle in these spaces when it comes to lighting. I'm not impartial to a little bling, but Suzi and Vonni's inset chandelier was too large for the room and the whole look had no link whatsoever to the den-like study we had just walked from, which made it quite confronting. In the laundry the lighting is purely functional, so make sure it's focused on the working areas – lights at the sink, the benches and at least one overhead for when you have the ironing board out. All of the contestants got this right by putting hidden LED strips under the overhead cabinets with simple downlights for general lighting.

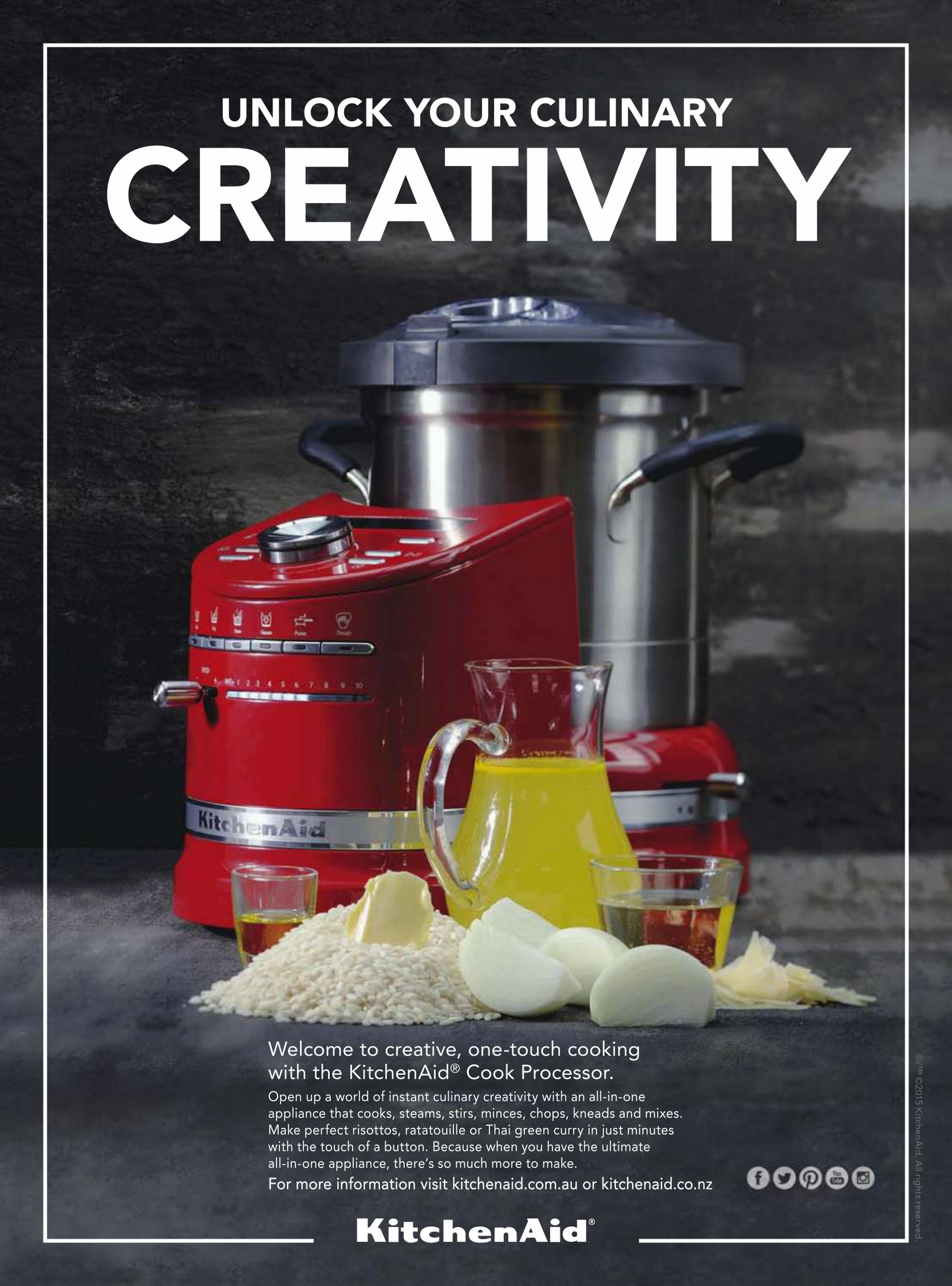
2. Find a space for everything using space-savvy ideas, such as fold-out or slide-out benches, which are great in tight areas with little bench space. A fold-out ironing board or a spot to store a full-sized one is a must and I'm happy to say all the contestants thought of functionality. There were areas for large storage baskets, sinks big enough to hold a bucket and state-of-the-art appliances.

3. Keep changes in colour to a minimum in a small space. By linking the tone of the flooring and the cabinetry, it visually joins them and can give the illusion of a larger space. This way you can have a contrasting light shade on the benchtop and a splash of colour on the wall tiles to direct focus in one area.



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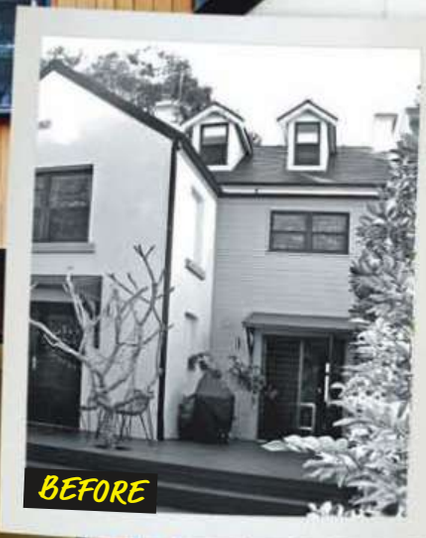
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A merry Christmas
over 32 pages

DECORATIONS The style essentials you need to bring the magic of the season into your home *(page 64)*

FOOD Get busy in the kitchen with festive treats for friends, family and unexpected guests *(page 70)*

CRAFT Let your fingers do the talking and be creative with these fabulous finishing touches *(page 77)*

GIFTS Solve all your Secret Santa dilemmas with our 100 gifts under $100 – plus, find out how to win the whole lot! *(page 84)*



PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMELLE HABIB. STYLING: HEATHER NETTE KING. LIGHTBOX, TYPO, TYPO.COM. STRING LIGHTS, THE WOODSFOLK, THEWOODSFOLK.COM.AU. WOODEN ELF, NORSU INTERIORS, NORSU.COM.AU



STYLING ASSISTANCE: GEORGIA HARRINGTON AND NATALIE JOHNSON

a little touch of magic

Overwhelmed by the amount of decorations? We've narrowed it down to three colour palettes – pick one and your home will be ready for Santa's visit in no time

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**



trees

baubles & ornaments





baubles & ornaments

TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: 'Adorn' polyhedron ornament, $8.95, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **Karen Walker Home 'Filigree' luxe bauble**, $14.95, Myer, myer.com.au. **Down To The Woods 'Festive Horse' ornament**, $17, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au. **Ferm Living brass hexagon**, $29, Norsu Interiors, norsu.com.au. **'Quintessential' porcelain ornament**, $14.95/assorted set of 4, Freedom, as before. **Ferm Living brass circle**, $29, Norsu Interiors, as before. **Karen Walker Home 'Critter Friends' luxe bauble**, $14.95, Myer, as before. **'Adorn' pyramid ornament**, $6.95, Freedom, as before. **Ribbon**, 80c/m, Paper 2, Paper2.com.au. **CENTRE ROW, FROM LEFT: Pantone star**, $7.50, Papier D'amour, papierdamour.com.au. **Herringbone striped ribbon**, $18.95/25m, Inky Co., inkyco.com.au. **Anne Black matte Christmas baubles**, from $15 each, Elevate Design, elevatedesign.com.au. **'Vintage Ball' decoration in Red**, $14.95, Dick & Dora, dickanddora.com. **Paper decorations**, $50/assorted set of 4, Dear Plastic, dearplastic.com. **Liebe 'Tree' decoration**, $17, Elevate Design, as before. **Pantone red heart decoration**, $20, Papier D'amour, as before. **Origami Est paper star**, $19, Norsu Interiors, as before. **BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: Origami Est paper star**, $19, Norsu, as before. **By Nord porcelain 'Small Snowflakes' bauble**, $29.95, Design Mode International, designmode.com.au. **Anne Black matte Christmas baubles**, from $15 each, Elevate Design, as before. **Trim ribbon in Slate Grey**, $1/m, Paper 2, as before. **By Nord soapstone Christmas tree decoration**, $19.95, Design Mode International, as before. **Anne Black porcelain 'Snowflake' decoration**, $20, Elevate Design, as before. **Origami Est paper diamond**, $19, Norsu Interiors, as before. **By Nord paper 'Snowstar' and 'Snowball' decorations**, $19.95 each, Design Mode International, as before. **Paper tree ornament**, $12.95/pack of 6, Kikki.K, kikki-k.com. **Louise Roe powder-coated metal star**, $19, Norsu Interiors, as before. **By Nord 'Pine Cone' decoration**, $19.95, Design Mode International, as before.

trees

PREVIOUS PAGE, FROM LEFT: Pine tree, POA, Dural Christmas Tree Farm, duralchristmastreefarm.com.au. **Ferm Living paper top star**, $54, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. **'036' vintage brass planter**, $1295, Garden Life, gardenlife.com.au. **Down To The Woods 2.5m wooden garland** (on floor), $39.95, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au. **Branch**, stylist's own. **Italian leather 38mm-wide belt length**, $15.40 each, Birdsall Leathercraft, birdsall-leather.com.au. **Plywood Christmas trees**, $389/small and $589/large, One Two Tree, onetwotree.com.au. **Glass jars**, from $80 each, MCM House, mcmhouse.com. **Branch and ribbon**, stylist's own. **Paper sculptures**, from $59 each, Castle, castleandthings.com.au. **Pantone honeycomb decoration** (near jars), $7.50, Papier D'amour, as before. *Winter* framed photographic **print** by Brooke Holm, $3300, Modern Times, moderntimes.com.au.

gift wrap & tags





gift wrap & tags

TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: 'Five Hands' paper, NZ$6/sheet, Wild Wagon Co, wildwagon.co.nz. **Grosgrain ribbon**, 80c/m, Paper 2, Paper2.com.au. **'Droplet' paper**, $7.50/sheet, Ruby Star Traders, rubystartraders.com.au. **Foiled tag**, $1.50, Papier D'amour, papierdamour.com.au. **Herringbone ribbon**, $15.95/30m, Inky Co., inkyco.com.au. **'Candy Stripe' paper**, from $2/m, Vandoros, vandoros.com.au. **'Satin Numerals' ribbon**, $15.95/20m, Inky Co., as before.
CENTRE ROW, FROM LEFT: 'Scandi' leaves paper and **'Nippon' dotted lines paper in Red**, $5.95/sheet, Ruby Star Traders, as before. **Anne Black matte Christmas bauble**, from $15, Elevate Design, elevatedesign.com.au. **White string**, 40c/m, Paper 2, as before. **'Nippon' dotted lines paper in Teal**, $5.95/sheet, Ruby Star Traders, as before. **Pink tag**, $7.95/pack of 10, Paper 2, as before. **Foil tag**, $7.50/set of 2, The Adventures Of, theadventuresof.co. **Suede cord in Dusty Pink**, 55c/m, Paper 2, as before. **'Fiesta' polka dot paper**, $5.95/sheet, Ruby Star Traders, as before. **Herringbone striped ribbon**, $18.95/25m, Inky Co., as before. **Liebe 'Tree' decoration**, $17, Elevate Design, as before.
BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: Double-sided Santa wrap, $7.50/sheet, The Adventures Of, as before. **Numeral tags**, $19.95/assorted set of 10 tags, Inky Co., as before. **Baker's twine**, $8.90/100m, Paper 2, as before. **'Tartan' paper**, from $2/m, Vandoros, as before. **Herringbone ribbon**, 80c/m, Paper 2, as before. **Anne Black matte Christmas bauble**, $20, Elevate Design, as before. **'City' paper**, from $2/m, Vandoros, as before. **Alphabet tag**, $2.95, and **hand-dyed silk ribbon**, $7.95/m, Bespoke Letterpress, bespokepress.com.au.

from the heart

There's something special about receiving a homemade gift. Try these *easy-to-make gourmet treats* to delight your loved ones

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER** FOOD STYLING **KIRSTEN JENKINS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JEREMY SIMONS**



crafty details

To create these labels, print a message onto 10mm-wide by 180mm-long strips of paper cut at a 45-degree slant – this should be long enough to cover part of the bottle and tuck under the lid. Secure onto your bottle with double-sided tape. For a special touch, cut a 20mm circle from metallic paper using a circle cutter and secure with glue.

Raspberry & lime cordial



crafty details

To make these paper cones, cut A4 sheets of wrapping paper into 210mm squares and tissue paper into 180mm squares. Line a wrapping paper square with a tissue paper one and twist into a cone shape and then secure with double-sided tape. For a personal touch, add a festive note, a quote or fortune cookie message.

Christmas rocky road slab



Traditional apricot jam

crafty details

Jazz up your jam jars with a gold sticker label and a pretty ornament tied with string. For the biscuit tins, line each one with tissue paper cut to size. Add a label with a festive thought, cut to 10mm-wide and 40mm-long.

gingerbread snowflakes & stars

MAKES about 40 (5 gift boxes) **PREPARATION TIME** 30 minutes
COOKING TIME 10 minutes

125g butter, softened
½ cup (100g) brown sugar
½ cup (125ml) golden syrup
1 egg yolk
2½ cups (375g) plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground cloves

Royal icing
1½ cups (230g) pure icing sugar
1 tsp lemon juice
1 eggwhite, lightly whisked

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Line 2 oven trays with baking paper.
2. Use an electric mixer to beat butter, sugar and golden syrup in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add egg yolk and beat until just combined. Sift over flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon and cloves; use a wooden spoon to stir to combine. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead until smooth.
3. Roll dough out on a lightly floured surface to 3mm thick. Use 5cm snowflake and star pastry cutters to cut out shapes from dough. Place on the prepared trays.
4. Bake in preheated oven, swapping trays halfway through cooking, for 10-12 minutes or until lightly golden. Remove from the oven and set aside on the trays to cool.
5. To make the royal icing, sift icing sugar into a small bowl. Add lemon juice and enough of the eggwhite to form a firm paste. Place in a piping bag fitted with a 1mm nozzle. Pipe royal icing onto the biscuits. Set aside for 1 hour to set. Store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Previous pages Raspberry & lime cordial: 'Hemsmak' **bottles**, $2.99 each, IKEA, ikea.com.au. Chiyogami **paper** (cut into circles), $13.90/sheet; metallic copper **wrapping paper** (cut into circles), $3.50/m; and grosgrain **ribbon**, 80c/m, all Paper 2, paper2.com.au. **Christmas rocky road slab:** Mini shipping **tags**, $4.95/pack of 10; herringbone **ribbon**, 80c/m; matte white **wrapping paper**, $3.50/m, all Paper 2, as before. 'Circle' **sticker** in White, $4/pack of 36, Blank Goods, blankgoods.com.au. **Other details**, as before and stylist's own. **This page:** Quilted 8oz (237ml) **jam jars**, $15.95/set of 6, Ball Mason Australia, ballmason.com.au. 'Large Circle' **stickers** in Gold (on lids), $4/pack of 10, Blank Goods, as before. Mini shipping **tags**, $4.95/pack of 10, and **baker's twine**, $8.90/100m, Paper 2, as before. Fairtrade embroidered brass **decoration**, $12.50, One Another, oneanother.com.au. 'Hemsmak' **tin with lid**, $9.99/assorted set of 3, IKEA, as before. Metallic copper **wrapping paper** (cut into circles) and matte white **wrapping paper**, $3.50/m, Paper 2, as before. **Opposite:** 'Hemsmak' **tins with lids**, $3.99/pair, IKEA, as before. Chiyogami **paper**, $13.90/sheet, Paper 2, as before. **Other details**, stylist's own.

ORIGINAL TASTE.COM.AU RECIPE BY SARAH HOBBS

Use these gifts as *gourmet placeholders* at your Christmas table. Go for the *same colour scheme* for a cohesive look



Gingerbread snowflakes & stars

berry & pistachio biscotti

MAKES 60 pieces (around 7 gift packets)
PREPARATION TIME 45 minutes **COOKING TIME** 55 minutes

1 cup caster sugar
2 eggs
1⅔ cups plain flour, sifted
1 tsp baking powder, sifted
1 cup pistachio kernels
½ cup dried berry mix, chopped (see tip)

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease 2 baking trays. Line with baking paper.
2. Place sugar and eggs in a large bowl. Whisk to combine. Add flour, baking powder, pistachios and berry mixture. Stir to combine. Knead dough on a lightly floured surface until smooth. Divide dough in half. Shape each half into a 30cm log. Place on prepared trays. Flatten slightly.
3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on trays for 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 140°C. Using a serrated knife, slice logs diagonally into 5mm-thick slices, discarding ends.
4. Place slices, in a single layer, on 3 baking paper-lined baking trays. Bake for 20 minutes, turning over halfway or until dry and crisp. Stand for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.
TIP: If dried berry mixture is unavailable, use ½ cup dried cranberries, dried blueberries or dried strawberries.

raspberry & lime cordial

MAKES about 500ml **PREPARATION TIME** 25 minutes
COOKING TIME 10 minutes

¾ cup (175g) caster sugar
⅓ cup (80ml) lime juice
½ cup (125ml) water
1 cup (250ml) grapefruit juice
300g fresh or frozen raspberries

1. Put caster sugar, lime juice, water and grapefruit juice in a saucepan. Stir over a low heat until the sugar dissolves.
2. Add raspberries and cook for 2 minutes or until raspberries break up slightly. Remove from the heat and cool slightly. Strain cordial into a jug and discard raspberry pulp.
3. Pour cordial into clean bottles and keep in the fridge for up to 3 weeks.
4. To serve, add a couple of tablespoons of cordial to chilled soda water or lemonade.

Matte white **wrapping paper**, $3.50/m, Paper 2, paper2.com.au. **Opposite:** Fairtrade embroidered brass **decorations**, $12.50 each, One Another, oneanother.com.au. Chiyogami **paper**, $13.90/sheet, and **assorted string and ribbon**, from 40c/m, Paper 2, as before. 'Hemsmak' **jar** with lid (lid not shown), $9.99, IKEA, as before. **Other details**, stylist's own.

christmas rocky road slab

SERVES 16 (6-8 gift cones) **PREPARATION TIME** 20 minutes
COOKING TIME 5 minutes

200g white chocolate, chopped
200g milk chocolate, chopped
100g mini Oreo cookies, halved
100g raspberry jellies, chopped
50g pink and white marshmallows, halved
40g Cherry Ripe bars, coarsely chopped

1. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Melt white and milk chocolates separately in heatproof bowls over saucepans of simmering water. Stir with a metal spoon until chocolate melts. Pour in a marbled pattern over the lined tray.
3. Sprinkle chocolate with Oreo cookies, jellies, marshmallows and Cherry Ripe. Set aside for 1 hour or until completely set. Break into shards to serve.

traditional apricot jam

MAKES 5 cups (4 gift jars) **PREPARATION TIME** 15 minutes
COOKING TIME 40 minutes

1 lemon
4 cups (900g) white sugar
1kg firm ripe apricots, flesh cut into 1.5cm pieces
1 cup (250ml) water

1. Use a vegetable peeler to peel the rind from the lemon. Halve and juice lemon, reserving seeds. Wrap lemon rind and seeds in a piece of muslin and tie with unwaxed white kitchen string to enclose.
2. Preheat oven to 150°C. Place sugar in a deep-sided baking tray or baking dish. Bake, stirring occasionally, for 5-10 minutes or until sugar is warm.
3. Meanwhile, place muslin pouch, apricot, water and 2 tablespoons of lemon juice in a large saucepan over medium heat. Bring to the boil. Simmer, stirring, for 10 minutes or until mixture is thick and soft.
4. Reduce heat to low. Add warm sugar and cook, stirring, occasionally brushing down the side of the pan with a pastry brush dipped in water, for 5 minutes or until sugar dissolves.
5. Increase heat to medium. Bring to the boil. Simmer rapidly, stirring and using a slotted spoon to remove any scum from the surface, for 20-25 minutes or until jam reaches setting point (take care the jam doesn't catch on the base of the pan). Discard muslin pouch.
6. Ladle hot jam through a funnel into sterilised jars and seal. Invert for 2 minutes. Turn the jars upright. Set aside to cool. Label, date and store in a cool, dark place away from direct sunlight until ready to use.

ORIGINAL TASTE.COM.AU RECIPES: (BERRY & PISTACHIO BISCOTTI) LIZ MACRI. (RASPBERRY & LIME CORDIAL AND TRADITIONAL APRICOT JAM) MICHELLE SOUTHAN. (CHRISTMAS ROCKY ROAD SLAB) SARAH HOBBS

For more recipes, visit *taste.com.au.*

Decorations shouldn't be limited to the tree – spend time creating *thoughtful ways to deliver* your foodie treats



crafty details

Use a printed sticker on wrapping paper cut to size – around 40mm wide – to create a gift label. Position the label with your gift bag (try these ones from Tokutokuya, (02) 9386 5391) and use a hole punch through both label and bag. Tie the label and bag together with string.

Berry & pistachio biscotti

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make it *yours*

Give your home a handcrafted feel with these festive weekend projects

PROJECTS, STYLING & PRODUCTION **LOTTE DEKKER & GIEKE VAN LON OF HUMADE (HUMADE.NL)** PHOTOGRAPHY **BARBARA GROEN**

We may not get a snow-capped winter wonderland for Christmas, but that doesn't mean you can't mimic the feel come nighttime. Light a host of candles and create little vignettes on side tables and windowsills to get that magical festive feeling.

COLLABORATION WITH BY MÖLLE. BYMOLLE.COM. TABLE, GREENWICH VILLAGE. GREENWICHVILLAGE.NL. CANDLE HOLDER REPAIRED WITH KINTSUGI KIT. HUMADE. HUMADE.NL. COPPER CANDLE HOLDER (CENTRE). STORE WITHOUT A HOME. STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. COPPER CANDLE HOLDER. STYLIST'S OWN. MOMAN TAI CANDLES. FRIDAY NEXT. FRIDAYNEXT.NL. SMALL BOX. STORE WITHOUT A HOME. AS BEFORE



canvas wreath

Welcome visitors to your home with this beautiful, nature-inspired painted canvas wreath

You will need

+ Three different leaves from the garden or the park
+ White canvas material, thick enough to paint on
+ Pencil
+ Scissors/utility knife
+ Copper spray paint
+ Light grey spray paint
+ 40cm metal ring (from a haberdashery/craft shop)
+ Hot glue gun
+ 2m x 3cm-wide ribbon

1. Trace each leaf onto the canvas with a pencil to create templates.

2. Cut out these templates and use them as a guide to cut 30 more leaves from the canvas, 10 of each shape.

3. Spray a few of leaves with copper paint or light grey paint. Allow to dry.

4. Place the leaves onto the metal ring, alternating the different shapes. Once you're happy with the overall look, glue the leaves onto the metal ring with the hot glue until the ring is covered.

5. Knot the ribbon onto the ring to hang the wreath on your wall or front door.

christmas card tree

Try this fun and decorative way of hanging cards from far and wide

You will need

+ 3m x 13mm white plasticised-iron curtain rod
+ Metal saw
+ Power drill
+ Sandpaper
+ Scissors
+ 5m x 3cm-wide ribbon
+ Metal wire/stickytape
+ Small strong magnets and pegs

1. Saw the rod into five staggered lengths: 90cm, 75cm, 60cm, 45cm and 30cm.

2. Drill a hole at these distances from both ends of each rod: 30cm rod – 7cm inwards; 45cm rod – 9cm inwards; 60cm rod – 11cm inwards; 75cm rod – 13cm inwards; 90cm rod – 15cm inwards. Sand any sharp edges from the drilled holes.

3. Cut the ribbon in two even lengths. Bind one end of each ribbon with metal wire or tape so it is easier to lead though the holes. Make knots at the other ends.

4. Lay the rods on a table or the floor, from the smallest to the longest, with a 30cm distance between them. Push the taped end of one ribbon through the drilled hole of the right side of the 90cm rod and draw it through to the end of the rod. Pull the ribbon all the way through and repeat this process with the other rods, leaving 30cm of ribbon between each of them.

5. When you reach the top of the tree, repeat the process with the other ribbon on the left side of the rods. At the top of the tree, tie the two ribbons together.

6. Hang the tree from a hook on the wall and decorate with your cards, either by hanging them over the rods or attaching with small magnets or pegs.

SUITCASES, NIJHOF, NIJHOFBAARN.NL. RUG, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. CANDLE HOLDERS, MAGNETS AND BALLOON, NIJHOF. AS BEFORE. POSTCARDS AND WOODEN BLOCK, STYLIST'S OWN



A blank wall is a blank canvas of possibilties come Christmas time. Creating a tree on the wall is a fun, space-savvy way to get into the spirit of the season, while making the most of beautiful cards.



bow-tie napkin rings

Give a relaxed lunch gathering a sense of occasion with these party-perfect accessories

You will need

+ 35cm x 35cm piece of leather
+ Scissors/utility knife
+ Metal ruler
+ Pencil
+ Leather glue

1. From your piece of leather, cut 8 pieces measuring 11cm x 7cm; 8 strips measuring 8cm x 1.2cm and 8 straps measuring 17.5cm x 2cm.
2. Concertina-fold one of the 11 x 7cm leather pieces, then wrap a 8 x 1.2cm strip around the middle. Glue the two ends together at the back with a 1cm overlap. Repeat this process for the rest of the pieces and strips. (You can change the look a little by alternating between the front and back of the leather.)
3. Pull one 17.5cm x 2cm strap though the leather loop on the back side of one bow tie. Glue the ends together with leather glue. Repeat this process for the rest of the bow ties.

leather bauble

Give this traditional decoration a thoroughly modern spin

You will need

+ 35cm x 35cm piece of leather in 2 different colours
+ Compass
+ Ruler
+ Scissors/utility knife
+ Cardboard
+ Pencil
+ Glue suitable for leather and foam (we used Bison Tix)
+ White ribbon

1. Draw out 8 x 11cm diameter circles (4 of each colour) on the back side of the leather pieces, using the compass and ruler.
2. Using one of the cut circles as your guide, measure an equilateral triangle that fits within the circle and cut the shape out of cardboard. Use this triangle cardboard as a template and trace the triangle on the back side of each of the leather circles with the pencil.
3. Glue the circles together on the edges outside the triangle, using the triangles drawn on the back as a guide. Glue one part of a circle together with one part of another circle at a time and secure it by pressing the two parts well together. Eventually you will use all 8 circles for your bauble.
4. Before gluing the last two parts together, insert the ribbon into the bauble and attach with glue.



LEFT: TABLECLOTH AND NAPKINS, BY MOLLE, BYMOLLE.COM. CONCRETE CANDLE HOLDER, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. BLUE AND PINK PLATES, NIJHOF. NIJHOFBAARN.NL. DISHES (UNDER NAPKINS), STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. HAND-PAINTED PLATE WITH GIRL, GREENWICH VILLAGE, GREENWICHVILLAGE.NL RIGHT: WALL HOOK STAND, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. BIRD CASE AND KEY RING, KEECIE, KEECIE.NL. NECKLACE, STYLIST'S OWN



hanging felt christmas tree

This ‘tree’ option is a playful alternative to the original with an invitingly soft touch

You will need

+ 100cm x 180cm wool felt
+ Metal ruler
+ Pencil
+ Fabric scissors
+ Sewing machine/overlocker
+ White cotton
+ 2cm x 20cm leather strap
+ Needle
+ 60cm metal hoop (from a haberdashery/craft store)
+ 3cm-wide ribbon
+ Small piece of canvas
+ Copper spray paint
+ Small safety pins

1. Cut 8 triangles out of the felt measuring 100cm tall x 38cm at the base. Using a sewing machine or overlocker on the zigzag stitch setting, stitch the longer sides together, leaving the seams outwards.

2. Create a small hole at the top of the tree. Pull the hole inwards and carefully thread through your leather strap. Create a loop and secure it with a few stitches on the inside of the treetop.

3. Fix the hoop to the bottom of the tree by folding the base of the triangles around the hoop and securing with a small stitch.

4. Thread the ribbon through the leather loop to hang up your tree.

5. To make the tree decorations, cut out circles from the canvas. Spray circles with copper paint and, once dry, attach to the tree with safety pins.

WOODEN BLOCK, STYLISTS OWN. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, NIJHOF, NIJHOFBAARN.NL. BLACK VASE, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. PAPER BALLS (ON WINDOW), NIJHOF, AS BEFORE. CANDLE HOLDER, GREENWICH VILLAGE, GREENWICHVILLAGE.NL. SCP SOFA, WOOD LOOK CUSHION, NIJHOF, AS BEFORE. PINK CUSHION, BY MOLLE, BYMOLLE.COM. WHITE CUSHION, GREENWICH VILLAGE, AS BEFORE. BOX, NIJHOF, AS BEFORE. CUP AND CARPET, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, AS BEFORE



advent tree

This dual-purpose canvas calendar will count down the days without leaving any pine needles on the carpet

You will need

+ 100cm x 150cm artist's canvas
+ Paint roller
+ Pale grey acrylic paint
+ 24 x 15cm wide envelopes in various colours
+ Metal ruler
+ Pencil
+ Utility knife
+ Wooden craft numbers, from 1 to 24
+ Craft glue

1. Paint the canvas pale grey. Once dry, lay out the envelopes starting with the first one in the middle, 17cm from the top. Measure downwards around 14.5cm from one envelope to the next in a tree formation.
2. Once you're happy with the envelope placement, make cuts in the canvas along the top width of each envelope, using the metal ruler and the knife.
3. Glue the craft numbers on the front of the envelope flaps from 1 to 24. Allow to dry.
4. Fill each envelope with a small gift or sweet, and carefully insert through the corresponding cut in the canvas.

GLASS HOUSE, STORE WITHOUT A HOME, STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL. ANGEL, HANDMADE HEAVEN, HANDMADE-HEAVEN.NL. BIG LIGHT BALL GLASS, KOUDKUNSTJE. KOUDKUNSTJE.NL. BASKET, NIJHOF. NIJHOF-BAARN.NL. RUG, GREENWICH VILLAGE, GREENWICHVILLAGE.NL. BENCH, HUMADE. HUMADE.NL



angel wine bottle cover

Give your pinot gris a finishing flourish at the table with its own set of angelic felt wings

You will need

+ Wine bottle
+ Measuring tape
+ Wing template (download from insideout.com.au/home-style)
+ 55cm x 25cm piece of 3mm-thick felt
+ Pins
+ Fabric scissors
+ Stanley knife

1. Measure the diameter of your wine bottle. Use this measurement for the middle cut of your wing template, then print it out.
2. Pin the template to your piece of felt and cut the shape out of the felt. Use a utility knife along the dotted lines as noted on the template.
3. Remove the template. Pull one wing through the cut next to the other wing, so they fit next to each other, and slide your cover over the wine bottle.

card hanger

Create a mobile full of festive cheer with this easy but chic idea

You will need

+ Wire basket
+ Gold-coloured chain or ribbon
+ Set of coloured bobby pins

1. Attach the chain onto the handle of your basket and hang from the ceiling or a shelf.
2. Slide the bobby pins onto the bottom of the basket, leaving the crimped ends to hang.
3. Display your Christmas cards by sliding them into the bobby pins.



STARS, STYLIST'S OWN. PLATES, NIJHOF. NIJHOFBAARN.NL. GLASS HOUSE CANDLE HOLDER, STORE WITHOUT A HOME. STOREWITHOUTAHOME.NL COPPER BASKET, HEMA. HEMA.NL. CARDS, STYLIST'S OWN


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best in show
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WITH LOVE.
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gift guide

100 gifts under $100

Here are the best stocking fillers to sort out Secret Santa. Plus, we're giving away the whole lot! Read on for details

SOURCING **CLARE PATIENCE**

PREVIOUS PAGES 1. Leah Jackson ceramic **mug**, $55, High Swan Dive, 0410 270 040. **2.** 'Sound Cloud' Euro **pillowcase**, $99, Lumiere Art + Co, lumiereartandco.com.au. **3.** 'Fragonia & Sandalwood' **hand wash**, $33, Bondi Wash, bondiwash.com.au. **4.** 'Jätteviktig' **candle holders**, $29.99/assorted pair, IKEA, ikea.com.au. **5.** 'Brodwater' **napkin** in Smoke, $59.95/set of 4, Sheridan, sheridan.com.au. **6.** 'Dial' **hanger** with hook in Orange, $38, Design By Them, designbythem.com. **7.** AC10 'Haus' **paperweight**, $60, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au. **8.** 'Truth Or Dare' **Christmas crackers**, $19.95/assorted pack of 6, Typo, typo.com. **9.** Organic buckwheat **pancake mix** with wild Canadian blueberries, $11.95, The Unexpected Guest, theunexpectedguest.com. **10.** 'Night Before Christmas' rose gold **salad servers**, $39.95, Mozi, mozi.com.au. **11.** Down To The Woods 'Diamond' **sign**, $75, The Woodsfolk, thewoodsfolk.com.au. **12.** 'SmartCup' **reusable coffee cup** in Titanium Base/White Lid, $34.95, Frank Green, frankgreen.com.au. **13.** Little Lumberjack 'Ollie Dusk' **serving board**, $60, Etsy, bylittlelumberjack.etsy.com. **14.** Oak **salt and pepper vessels**, $18 each, Funkis, funkis.com. **15.** 'Delight With Love' **side plate**, $14.95, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **16.** Crashmat 'Sand Diamonds Bubble' **iPad holder**, $58.95, Hard To Find, hardtofind.com.au. **17.** Normann Copenhagen 'Floe' **tealight holder** in Light Pink, $25, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. **18.** Bloomingville 'Holly' **teapot**, $49.95, French Bazaar, frenchbazaar.com.au. **19.** 'Erla' marble **photo frame**, $44.95, Country Road, countryroad.com.au. **20. Secateurs**, $35, Garden Life, gardenlife.com.au. **21.** Murchison Hume 'Best In Show' **dog grooming set**, $39.95, Domayne, domayneonline.com.au. **22.** Rusted metal 'Peace' **sign**, $45, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.



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23. Watermark' **bath mat**, $59, Ninnho, ninnho.com.au. **24.** 'Marcella' marble **wall clock**, $89.95, Oz Design Furniture, ozdesignfurniture.com.au. **25.** 'Porcelain Marble' **cheese plate** with leather detail, $99, Kaz, kazmorton.com.au. **26.** Twiggargerie 'Twig Arrow' **sculpture**, $65, Soda + Stitch, sodaandstitch.com. **27. Twinkle lights**, $49.99/15m, Typo, typo.com. **28.** Marble multi **vessel** with gold detail, $89, Resident GP, residentgp.com.au. **29.** 'Chip' **men's sunglasses** in Navy Stripe, $89.95, Sticks & Sparrow, sticksandsparrow.com.au. **30.** 'Marigold' 3.5L **jug** in White Flower, $49.95, Christopher Vine, christophervine.com.au. **31.** Brass Christmas **candle**, $55, Zakkia, zakkia.com.au. **32.** 'Davis' **table lamp**, $79.95, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **33.** 'Blue Dot' **cushion**, $69, Gorman, gormanshop.com.au. **34.** Jute **basket**, $95/small, Southwood, southwoodhome.com.au. **35.** 'Dachshund' **bookends** in Black, $80/pair, Fenton & Fenton, fentonandfenton.com.au. **36.** 'Roam Free' **wall banner**, $99, Pony Rider, ponyrider.com.au. **37.** 'Fletcher' **magnifier**, $79.95, Momu, momu.com.au. **38. Copper tray**, $79.95, Resident GP, as before. **39.** Gwyneth Hulse Design 'Faceted' **wooden coasters** in Monochromatic, $44.75/assorted set of 4, Etsy, gwynethhulsedesign.etsy.com.


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40. Have You Met Miss Jones 'Furstenberg' **vase** in Gold, $64, Jones & Co, jonesandco.com.au. **41.** Fog Linen Work round wire **basket**, $26, Father Rabbit, fatherrabbit.com. **42.** *Skating* A4 **print** by Belinda Marshall, $65 (unframed), Etsy, belindamarshallart.etsy.com. **43.** 'Airwave' **table light**, $99, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **44.** 'My Bucket List' **journal**, $34.99, Axel & Ash, axelandash.com. **45.** *Bleu Electro* A4 **print** by Madeleine Stamer, $60 (unframed), Little Circus Design, littlecircusdesign.com. **46.** 'Beach Buddies' **coasters**, $39/assorted set of 4, West Elm, westelm.com.au. **47.** 'Fokus' **tray**, $99, Marimekko, marimekko.com. **48.** 'Flora Poetica' **beanbag**, $79.95, Mozi, mozi.com.au. **49.** Copper **bottle opener**, $32.50, Lightly, lightly.com.au. **50.** 'Make Your Mark' A4 **weekly planner pad**, $9.95, Kikki.K, kikki-k.com. **51.** Secret Garden **colouring book** by Johanna Basford, $19.99, Typo, typo.com. **52.** 'Arlo' **cushion** in Rose, $59.95, Oz Design Furniture, ozdesignfurniture.com.au. **53.** Lifefactory '2-Cup' glass food **storage container**, $33.95, Shop Until, shop.until.com.au. **54.**Tellkiddo 'Sleeping Bear' **paper bag**, $30, My Messy Room, mymessyroom.com.au.



55.The Curious Craftsmen 'Mr Wolf' **clock**, $70, Etsy, thecuriouscraftsmen.etsy.com. **56.** 'Rubin' **casserole dish**, $49.95/2.5L, Country Road, country road.com.au. **57.** HeySign **felt pots** in Orange, $45/small, $55/medium, Southwood, southwoodhome.com.au. **58.** Prospector Co. 'Burroughs' **body cleanser**, $29.95, Saison, saison.com.au. **59.** 'Yetti' multi-tassel **necklace**, $55, Sage x Clare, sageandclare.com. **60.** 'Minimalist' A6 bonded leather **notebook**, $16.95, Kikki.K, kikki-k.com. **61.** 'Geo' jacquard **throw** in Nightshade, $59, West Elm, westelm.com.au. **62.** Galvanised round **tray**, $60, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.au. **63.** CitiX60 'Hong Kong' **city guide**, $20, TheSuperCool, thesupercool.com. **64.** 'Mottlecah Violet' **oven mitt**, $32, Utopia Goods, utopiagoods.com.

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65. 'Chromatic' **apron**, $59, Gorman, gormanshop.com.au. **66.** Studio Arhoj 'Melting' **mug** in Pink, $38, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. **67.** 'Garden Bed' **pillowcases**, $59/pair, Gorman, as before. **68.** Concrete **jar** in Forest, $55, Zakkia, zakkia.com.au. **69.** 'Avalon' **beach seat**, $79.95, Sunny Life, sunnylife.com.au. **70.** 'Small' copper **bowl**, $30, Lightly, lightly.com.au. **71.** 'Wategos' **beach towel** in Wattle, $84.95, Sheridan, sheridan.com.au. **72.** Zoku 'Space' pop **moulds**, $39.95/assorted set of 6, Myer, myer.com.au. **73.** 'Op Ombre' **scarf** in Emerald, $48, Tinker By Printink Studio, printinkstudio.com. **74.** 'Numa' **vase** in Caribbean Sea, $29.95/mini, Villeroy & Boch, villeroy-boch.com.au. **75.** 'Watermelon' ply **wall-hanging**, $49, Beneath The Sun, beneaththesun.bigcartel.com. **76.** 'S+' **salad servers** in Sun, $49.95, Villeroy & Boch, as before. **77.** Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label metal fridge **champagne gift set**, $95, Moët Hennessy, moet-hennessy-collection.com.au.


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78. Fanny & Alexander **wooden camera** with zoom in Sage Green, $60, Plyroom, plyroom.com.au. **79.** 'Black Fan' glass **shadow box**, $89, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.au. **80.** 'Zagora' **canisters**, $59.95/set of 3, Maxwell & Williams, maxwellandwilliams.com.au. **81.** Bloomingville 'Botanic' **tea towels**, $44.85/assorted set of 3, French Bazaar, frenchbazaar.com.au. **82.** 'Strokes' **necklace** in Rosewater/Blondewood/Yves Klein, $79, Elk, elkaccessories.com. **83.** 'La Bomba' **earrings**, $59.95, Merci Perci, merciperci.com. **84.** Trunki 'Rosie' **suitcase**, $74.95, David Jones, davidjones.com.au. **85.** 'Lela' flat **purse**, $29.90, Citta Design, cittadesign.com. **86.** 'Confetti' **napkins** in Green & Gold, $66, Tinker By Printink Studio, printinkstudio.com. **87.** 'Round Eye' **cushion** in Blue, $49, Arro Home, arrohome.com. **88.** Have You Met Miss Jones 'Anchor' **vase**, $39, Jones & Co, jonesandco.com.au. **NEXT PAGE 89.** 'Scarab Bug' **hook** in Gold, $25, Fenton & Fenton, fentonandfenton.com.au. **90.** 'Circle Button' **cushion**, $29, Soda + Stitch, sodaandstitch.com. **91.** Nomess Copenhagen **jars**, $24.95/assorted set of 5, Vincent Design, vincentdesign.com.au. **92.** 'Interlock' **candle holder**, $39.95, Page Thirty Three, pagethirtythree.com. **93.** 'Dinosaur Feast' **supper set**, $34.95, Love Mae, lovemae.com.au. **94.** Barr & Co. 'Honeysuckle' apothecary **candle**, $59.95, Saison, saison.com.au. **95.** 'Lolly Bag' **coin purse**, $29.95, Merci Perci, as before. **96.** Garden **flamingo**, $36.95, Sunny Life, sunnylife.com.au. **97.** Profiline 'Series II' **paella pan**, $95.95, Kitchen Warehouse, kitchenwarehouse.com.au. **98.** 'Papajo Oiva Glögg' **cup**, $24, Marimekko, marimekko.com. **99.** 'Spice' **bath towel**, $79.95, Sunday Minx, sundayminx.com.au. **100.** P.A.L.M.S denim **pouch** by Paul Garvey, $40, Greenhouse Interiors, greenhouseinteriors.com.au.

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Merry Christmas from Inside Out!

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The Home Team

The Biggest Challenge Yet!



Watch our team transform this 1960s brick veneer renovator's delight over 10 big weeks



There's something for everyone as this house is renovated from front-to-back with DIY tips and style inspiration for every room and outdoor area

The Team: Julia Green, James Bawden, Leah McLeod, Anthony Scott

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coastal calm

It's easy to create a modern seaside vibe with a few style choices

The weekender on the beach is a quintessential Aussie dream. To bring that sunny and relaxed feel to your place, you can't go past pale timber floorboards, white panelled walls and a nautical blue-and-white striped rug (this one's from Armadillo&Co). For a contemporary twist, pick a standout sofa to sink into and white sheer curtains to filter bright sunlight. Find more inspiration from this Victorian home on the next page.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMELLE HABIB. STYLING: HEATHER NETTE KING. PAPER STAR LANTERN, MY CHRISTMAS, MYCHRISTMAS.COM.AU



Christmas gets a makeover this year for this Melbourne family in their sunny weekender escape right by the sea

WORDS **CERI DAVID** STYLING **HEATHER NETTE KING** PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**

howe for the holidays



cheat sheet

Who lives here: Couple Jennifer and Adrian, and their daughter Lilah, 5.
Style of house: A two-storey '90s build with four bedrooms in Mount Martha on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. The home was purchased in early 2014.
An eight-month renovation to transform what had been an elderly couple's house into a beachy family getaway in time for Christmas.
The whole house revamp cost just under $400k and included a new kitchen, pool and bedroom.

POOL (opposite) Daughter Lilah can often be found out by the pool. A rocker from House Of Orange and a Basil Bangs 'Dome' umbrella by Lucas Grogan from Fenton & Fenton are outdoor essentials.
DINING AREA Centrepiece decorations from My Christmas, crockery from Bloom & Co and Sheridan napkins set the scene for Christmas lunch at Jennifer and Adrian's coastal escape.

NAPKIN RINGS, NORSU INTERIORS, NORSU.COM.AU. OPPOSITE: TOWEL (ON FLOOR), ZIPORAH LIFESTYLE, ZIPORAHLIFESTYLE.COM. TOWEL (ON LOUNGER) AND THROW (ON ROCKER), SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. STRING LIGHTS, NORSU INTERIORS, AS BEFORE





pennant

Learn how to make this layered leather pennant on page 165.



crown

Create your own customised crowns – turn to page 165 to see how.

Forget mistletoe and sleigh bells. Christmas in this part of the world revolves around two key things: family and the outdoors. It's that time of year when kids can shove their school uniform to the back of the wardrobe, grown-ups switch off the work email, and we all get to spend time with people we love in the beautiful weather.

In many ways, that's what prompted Jennifer and Adrian to invest in a weekend property. "We don't have anywhere for our daughter, Lilah, to run around in inner-city Melbourne," says Jennifer, "and we really wanted that, especially as both my husband and I come from the country."

A beach house on the Mornington Peninsula, just an hour by car, seemed the perfect solution but while Jennifer immediately began dreaming of a Hamptons-style getaway, it took a year of searching before they came across the house in Mount Martha. "Most of what we'd seen was set back from the beach, buried in shrubs, but this place is across from the public beach so there are no trees. It has such an amazing view, we really couldn't go past it."

Still, location aside, the property bore very little resemblance to the breezy bolthole Jennifer had envisaged. "There were olive-green feature walls, rustic-looking tiles, cherry wood floorboards – things I wouldn't associate with the beach. And there were only three bedrooms, which was nearly a deal-breaker because we wanted four."

Fortunately, having renovated before, the couple had an idea of what was possible – and enlisted interior designer Terri Shannon and her team at Bloom, who they'd worked with in the past. The brief was simple. "I wanted the exact opposite of our home in town," says Jennifer. "Terri's seen that, so she knows it's very 'Melbourne'

TOP LEFT: THROW AND CHOPPING BOARD, BLOOM & CO, BLOOMANDCO.COM.AU. BOTTOM: CROCKERY AND CUTLERY, BLOOM & CO, AS BEFORE. BONBONS, MY CHRISTMAS, MYCHRISTMAS.COM.AU. NAPKINS, SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. NAPKIN RINGS, NORSU INTERIORS, NORSU.COM.AU. OPPOSITE: CENTREPIECE DECORATIONS AND CHAMPAGNE GLASSES, MY CHRISTMAS, AS BEFORE

BALCONY (opposite, far left) Jennifer and Lilah enjoying the view on Eco Outdoor furniture. **ENTRY (opposite, left)** The Bespokery bonbons make a festive welcome on a console table from Jardan. **KITCHEN/ DINING AREA** Panelling and pale timber create a relaxed Hamptons look with a GlobeWest dining setting adding a modern touch.



and serious, with dark woods and marble. We love it, but for this, it's important to feel we're getting away from the city."

Collecting the keys on Anzac Day, they had a clear deadline: Christmas, when they'd play host to family from all over Victoria. "We got cracking straightaway," says Jennifer.

Structurally, they stayed within the footprint of the house, converting a large laundry into the fourth bedroom they wanted. Once the room quota was resolved, floors were replaced with white-washed oak, while the walls were given a clever treatment by builder Tim Rodgers-Wilson from TRW Constructions. "They're boards that have been grooved to give the effect of lining boards, which Tim came up with so we could stay within budget," says Jennifer. With the decor, Jennifer was happy to be led by Bloom. "They do the Hamptons look really well and I especially love the blue they've incorporated to tie in with the home's beach feel."

Meanwhile, the outdoor space also needed a major overhaul, as the existing pathways and rose gardens would require far more maintenance than could be managed living there part-time. Nor were they especially child friendly. Cue a pool, landscaped lawn and decking, all of which Lilah adores. "She's constantly outdoors picking flowers, practising gymnastics on the grass or putting on concerts on the deck, which she thinks is a stage," says Jennifer.

Of course, the big question is: was the project done in time for the festive season? "Tim promised we'd be finished on December 1, and we were finished on December 1," beams Jennifer. "He's hands-down the best builder I've ever worked with."

With that, the Christmas tree and decorations went up and the place was ready to welcome family from far and wide - although not everyone's a fan of Jennifer's rule of saving presents until after breakfast. "Adrian can't bear it," she laughs. "He's a big kid at heart and always manages to sneak a couple of early ones to Lilah."

Either way, Christmas last year was such a success that Jennifer is keen to play host again. There's just one problem. "It's not our turn," she says. "But I'll do my best to convince them it is." 10

To see more of Bloom's work, visit bloominteriordesign.com.au. For more details on TRW Constructions, visit trwconstructions.com.au.



WHITE WOODEN STAR, MY CHRISTMAS, MYCHRISTMAS.COM.AU. CANDLE HOLDER AND WOODEN STAR, NORSU INTERIORS, NORSU.COM.AU. VASE, BLOOM & CO., BLOOMANDCO.COM.AU

“There were olive-green feature walls, rustic-looking tiles, cherry wood floorboards – things I wouldn’t associate with the beach” JENNIFER, HOMEOWNER



LIVING AREA On Christmas morning, the Jardan ‘Nook’ sofa with large cushions is where Jennifer, Adrian and Lilah will gather to see what Santa has delivered. The plush lounge’s rich-blue tone draws on the coastal surrounds, while its tactile feel contrasts with the Armadillo&Co rug and the coffee table, also from Jardan.

“The Bloom design team do the Hamptons look really well and I especially love the blue they’ve incorporated to tie in with the home’s beach feel” JENNIFER, HOMEOWNER



LIVING AREA A spruce Christmas tree from Julian Ronchi Garden Design and Nursery is dressed to impress, with Santa sacks from The Woodfolk underneath. Lilah is keen to get into the spirit of the season, hanging up this handmade bunting above the fireplace **(opposite)**. A ‘Seymour’ chair from King Living creates an inviting reading nook.



bunting

You will need:

1 natural leather rectangle measuring 23cm x 15cm
Pen
Ruler
Sharp scissors
4 x natural leather rectangles measuring 15cm x 13cm
4 x pale blue vinyl rectangles measuring 13cm x 8cm
4 x metallic gold leather rectangles measuring 12cm x 6cm
1 metallic blue leather square measuring 20cm x 20cm
1 gold leather square measuring 20cm x 20cm
Craft glue
Utility knife/scalpel
Blu-Tack/pins
Snowflake templates downloaded from the internet
120cm of gold leather thonging

1. Fold the 23cm x 15cm natural leather rectangle in half lengthways. Mark a dot 18cm down on the back of the outer edge. From this mark, cut a straight line to meet the bottom of folded edge.

2. Repeat this process for the other rectangles, using the following measurements: 15cm x 13cm natural leather – 10cm down; pale blue vinyl – 8.5cm down; gold leather – 7cm down.

3. Trace the snowflake templates onto the back of the metallic blue and gold leather squares.

4. Cut out the shapes. Apply glue to the leather snowflakes and attach to the natural leather flags.

5. Glue the thonging to the back of the flags to form the bunting. Attach to the wall with Blu-Tack.

OPPOSITE: TREE TOPPER, MY CHRISTMAS, MYCHRISTMAS.COM.AU. TREE DECORATIONS, MY CHRISTMAS (AS BEFORE). THE WOODSFOLK (THEWOODSFOLK.COM.AU). THE SHELLEY PANTON STORE (SHOP.SHELLEYPANTON.COM) AND NORSU INTERIORS (NORSU.COM.AU). ON COFFEE TABLE, CANDLE HOLDER AND WOODEN STAR, NORSU INTERIORS, AS BEFORE. VASE, BLOOM & CO, BLOOMANDCO.COM.AU. THIS PAGE: PAPER STAR, NORSU INTERIORS, AS BEFORE





gift topper & tassel
Turn to page 165



lessons learnt

What we'd change: "The bathrooms – they were only updated five years ago, so we left them out of the initial reno, but eventually I'd like to redo them. The same goes for the facade of the house, but it's in such good condition that I can't quite con my husband into agreeing with me just yet on that," says Jennifer.
Biggest surprise: "We thought it would be more of a summer pad, but rugging up and walking along the beach in winter is fabulous, too. And the fireplace – which was there when we bought the home – is beautiful."
Best tip: "Remember what drew you to the house initially, and make that a focus. For us, that was the view. We realised that the balconies had thick white tubular framing that blocked the outlook when you were sitting down, so we changed those to a more modern frameless style."

THIS PAGE: (TOP RIGHT) GOLD ORNAMENT, THE SHELLEY PANTON STORE, SHOPSHELLEYPANTON.COM. STAR, NORSU INTERIORS, NORSU.COM.AU. (BOTTOM) WIRE STAR, NORSU INTERIORS, AS BEFORE. EURO PILLOWCASES, SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. OPPOSITE: WOODEN ANTLERS, HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEOFORANGE.COM.AU. WOODEN BEAD GARLAND, STRING LIGHTS AND SANTA SACK, THE WOODSFOLK, THEWOODSFOLK.COM.AU. WOODEN ELF (ON SIDE TABLE), NORSU INTERIORS, AS BEFORE. LIGHTBOX, TYPO, TYPOCOM

"We thought it would be more of a summer pad, but rugging up and walking along the beach in winter is fabulous, too" JENNIFER, HOMEOWNER



MASTER BEDROOM (opposite) The Gubi lights from AmbienteDirect.com set the blue and grey tones in the room, along with the 'Leila' bed from Jardan. **LILAH'S BEDROOM** Subtle curves come to the fore with the powder-blue Jardan 'Nook' bed and a table from GlobeWest. The 'Bay Of Islands' carpet in Ocean is from Victoria Carpets.

BEACHY KEEN

This family were so keen to revamp their Byron Bay cottage that they tore down walls before they even owned it

WORDS & STYLING **NATALIE WALTON** PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES**



VERANDAH Reflecting the soul revival they've given to the rest of the home, owners Taliah and Sein have turned a tired sunroom into a welcoming verandah. A table from Country House Antiques and a mix of chairs from different eras add to the inviting and relaxed feel.



CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Taliah and Sein Lowry, who are both in holiday accommodation property management and investment; and sons, Jai, 13; Blaze, 12; and Reef, 6; as well as their dog Mango Rose (pictured here with Blaze and Reef).

Style of house: A 1930s weatherboard cottage in Byron Bay, NSW.

The renovation started on the day of settlement and took around six months to complete.

$$$$$

The works cost $300k, with a new roof and verandah installed, a reworked master bedroom, and a renovated kitchen and bathroom.



LIVING AREA "I've always placed a huge importance on the space around me," says Taliah Lowry **(above)**. The Lincoln Brooks 'Pretzel' chairs are topped with cushions made from fabric sourced in Hawaii. An olive velvet beanbag sits on a Moroccan rug from Tigmi Trading.

Taliah and Sein Lowry first spotted their future home in 2009 and managed to secure it only a few days later. In fact, it was the first time the property had been offered for sale in more than 40 years. The single-storey cottage is believed to be one of the original fishing weatherboard cottages, dating back to the 1930s when Byron Bay was a sleepy fishing town on the New South Wales coast. Taliah and Sean wanted to start renovating urgently as their third child was due in a few months. "We were in such a hurry that we had builders knocking walls down before we had actually settled," says Taliah. "The agent came over and shut us down but we started up again later that day when settlement was confirmed. Within six months, the house was finished."

Taliah, why did you decide to buy the cottage? We were ready for a tree change – or so we thought. We were about to secure a five-acre hinterland property when, by chance, we noticed an open-house sign on our way back from the beach. We walked in and the cottage had instant appeal. I love a place with character. It had a big yard, so we could still have chickens and rabbits and a fire pit, all of which we had had for years. Within minutes, we made an offer.

Did the purchase process go smoothly? We placed an offer to try to get an outcome prior to auction. The cottage was owned by a children's charity - the previous owner had left the property to them in his will. The offer had to be considered and voted on by the charity board. This took more time and created more stress for us. We also wanted to offer as much as we could; knowing it was going to benefit a children's charity weighed on our minds. A few days later, they accepted.

"THE COTTAGE HAD A CHARM AND ELEGANCE ABOUT IT THAT REALLY HAD MY HEART BEATING" TALIAH LOWRY, HOMEOWNER



star performer

Using bamboo is a clever and chic way to create shade and privacy, while also suiting the look of Taliah and Sein's home. The rustling sound as the breeze passes through means summer's coming.



value buy

Reef and Blaze hang out in the macrame hanging chair from Tropicana Imports. It's $129.95; call (02) 6680 4249 for info.

What was the condition of the house? The cottage was run-down, dark and the floors creaked. It's hard to explain but it had a warm, friendly feeling about it. The backyard was perfect – we imagined the boys climbing the massive mango tree, playing in the treehouse and camping out near the fire pit. Our eldest boy, Jai, also desperately wanted his own vegie garden. The cottage was actually livable the way it was but we wanted to make some changes.

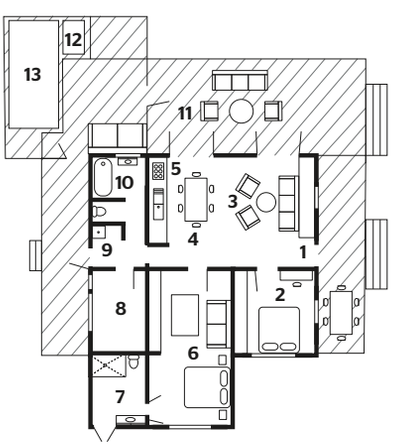
Where does your love of interiors come from? For most of my teen years I lived with my mum and step-dad, who is a carpenter, on Vashon Island near Seattle. We bought a heritage-listed house that was more than 120 years old. I watched my parents renovate this house step by step with their own hands, shingle by shingle, keeping the history alive. Living in this house was the beginning of my obsession with homes with history.

How did you find the process? I loved every minute – designing and building is what makes me tick. Our builder, Sva Gibson of Satori Builders, is my oldest friend and an incredible builder. I've known him since I was three, so it was like having family on site – my brother, Nharyan Feldmann, was our painter. It was Nharyan who suggested we keep the original timber lining as a memento of the cottage's history. We used the lining on some of the walls and ceilings and had intended on painting them white but left them as they were – they're now my favourite feature in the house. 10

This home is now available to rent via airbnb.com.au/rooms/2848222. To contact Sva Gibson of Satori Builders, call 0437 202 050. Contact painter Nharyan Feldmann on 0404 460 358.

DECK (left) A clear wood finish from Timber Solutions protects the grey ironbark decking. **SHELVING (below)** A variety of plywood box shelves by Taliah's friend Sam Neal have had the exterior sides painted to match the wall, but the edges and interiors are left exposed.





1. Entry
2. Bedroom
3. Living area
4. Dining area
5. Kitchen
6. Master bedroom
7. Ensuite
8. Bedroom
9. Laundry
10. WC/bathroom
11. Deck
12. Spa
13. Pool



KITCHEN/DINING AREA
Handmade Spanish subway tiles from Byron Bay Tiles contrast with the home's timber walls. Another assortment of chairs adds character. "I have a fetish for chairs and the different styles complement each other," says Taliah.

LESSONS LEARNT

"RENOVATING AN OLD COTTAGE IS LIKE BUILDING A NEW HOUSE BUT MORE EXPENSIVE"

TALIAH LOWRY, HOMEOWNER

"It's also more time-consuming, involving taking down walls, stripping layers of history then reconstructing them piece by piece. We had to completely re-wire the cottage, update all the plumbing, and basically re-do everything. We certainly didn't take this into account. We could've built a brand-new five-bedroom home for what we spent on the cottage, but then it wouldn't have the character so every penny was worth it. I love that the floors still creak and that the original colours from the past 80 years have been kept in the rear of the house."



MASTER BEDROOM The original room was extended to create a retreat space. "The salvaged windows immediately added life and character – new windows would never have had the same feeling," says Taliah. The woven stool is from a local store, Hope & May.



BATHROOM (below) The pedestal sink is original to the house and everything was built around it – much to the chagrin of the builder! **POOL (right)** The pool and spa were installed as a way for Taliah's three boys to expend their energy. "It gets used every day," she says.



star performer

A plunge pool and spa at the back of the home create a holiday-at-home vibe. It's the perfect escape with a lush bamboo screen and ocean-blue mosaics from Byron Bay Tiles.





'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Love Note, $56.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525.

Gunnersen 'EasyVJ' timber **panelling**, $24.52/sqm, Bunnings Warehouse bunnings.com.au.

'Vetro Bianco' recycled Italian glass **mosaics**, $38/30cm x 30cm sheet, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.com.au.



NATALIE'S TOP 3 STYLE FAVES

+ Rugs Taliah has a beautiful collection of Moroccan rugs in her home. The large diamond pattern in the living area is my favourite – it's the perfect pattern and hue. Sometimes, these rugs can be quite yellow, but this one is spot on.

+ Plants I've never seen so many varieties of plants in a home! It's inspired me to introduce more into my place.

+ Pull-down projector As someone who hasn't had a TV for almost 15 years, this idea was really appealing. It's hidden behind timber painted the same colour as the wall.

'THE MAGIC 3' AND '5 GREAT FINDS' PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

5 GREAT FINDS



1 Herman Miller 'Eames DSW' moulded plastic **side chair** by Charles and Ray Eames, $830, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.

2 'Eggcup' **stool**, $550, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.



3 Knoll 'Bertoia' **side chair** by Harry Bertoia, from $1694, Dedece, dedece.com.



4 Ercol 'Originals Windsor' **dining chair**, $795, Temperature Design, temperaturedesign.com.au.



5 'Pretzel' **armchair**, $999, Coast Furniture + Interiors, coastfurnitureandinteriors.com.au.



distinct flavour

A keen entertainer's love of colour gives her home a look that's big on personality

WORDS & STYLING **HEATHER NETTE KING** PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**



cheat sheet

Who lives here: Bec Udvary, a food stylist; Tim Udvary, a mechanical engineer; their twin daughters Saskia and Erzsike, 12; and son Woody, 7. Plus, there's Rex, a three-year-old Cairn Terrier; Clancy, a two-year-old cat; and various chickens.

Style of house: A four-bedroom single-storey red brick Californian bungalow in Melbourne, Victoria.

After a year of planning, the first renovation took eight months and the second stage six months. The pool took 10 weeks.

PORTRAIT (opposite) Owner Bec Udvary says there's a spot for everything in her home, even the pet food. **LIVING AREA** Supertuft carpet is a vibrant base for the Grazia & Co armchair and Gordon Mather Industries table. The bricks are from Euroa Clay Products.



In keeping with the mix of new and vintage, the walnut veneer on the kitchen island contrasts the black shiplap cladding.

They say timing is everything. So Bec and Tim Udvary knew their builder was pretty special when he completed not one, but two major renovations ahead of schedule to accommodate their expanding family. "Steve Bourke [of Bourke & Sons Constructions] finished our previous home in St Kilda West just before our twins Erzsike and Saskia were born – then, five years later, he did it again, completing this house so we could settle in before Woody arrived," says Bec. "He was terrific – I mean, how often do you hear of a renovation finishing two months early?"

The couple bought the red-brick Californian bungalow in Melbourne's south-east in 2006. It had been partially renovated in the '70s, and bore many hallmarks of the era: "Think lots of beige, gas wall heaters and even wardrobes installed in the entrance," says Bec. As the front of the house was in a livable state, they tackled the overall project in two parts. "We engaged our friend, architect Clare Cousins, to design the first stage, which included a new kitchen, living and dining space, as well as bedrooms and a play area for Saskia and Erzsike," says Bec.

The rear of the home was demolished and replaced with a U-shaped addition, designed to make the most of the north-facing corner block. "We chose glossy, glazed bricks, which look great inside and out, and black steel-framed Skyrange windows that slide open to give us that connection with the backyard," says Bec. A curved deck softened the rear space, leaving ample room for the '70s inspired kidney-shaped pool that was to come later on.

Not shy when it comes to colour, nor short of talented friends who could advise her on punchy furniture choices, Bec set about creating "a house that didn't look like everyone else's".

"My good friend, furniture designer Grazia Materia, helped me select lots of the furniture and, when we couldn't find the right piece, designed it for me herself," says Bec. "I started with the grass-green carpet in the living area, then came the orange sofa, the yellow dining chairs, and then I added all the artwork and accessories I had been gradually buying over the years."

As a professional cook and food stylist (her stunning pink pavlova was in *Inside Out*'s November 2014 Christmas issue), Bec wanted a hardy and practical kitchen with great storage for



DINING AREA A photo, *Thousand Secrets* by Deborah Paauwe, hangs above the buffet designed by architect Clare Cousins. The artwork on the left is by daughter Saskia. Sunny yellow Thonet chairs complement the clean lines of the Temperature Design table.

"I started with grass-green carpet, then came the orange sofa and the yellow dining chairs" BEC UDVARY, HOMEOWNER



her many cookbooks and props. Clare designed a central kitchen with a large walnut veneer island bench, as well as open wall shelves and a generous walk-in pantry. "Open-plan kitchens work so well when you cook professionally at home, and when you entertain a lot, as we do. I can be busy in the kitchen but still keep an eye on the kids, or be chatting to guests," she says.

In 2013, Bec and Tim called on Clare again to take on the next stage of the reno. This time they wanted to revamp the front rooms to bring them into line with the contemporary rear of the home.

"Clare has her own young family, so she understands how important it is to have a place for everything. Her dedication knew no bounds when it came to my laundry – there is even a drawer that's designed specifically to fit the pet food," says Bec with a laugh. "We also installed steel doors in our master bedroom to open it up to the front yard, and created a very glamorous peach and copper ensuite from the original family bathroom – it's very grown-up,"

Bec's home is definitely "not like everybody else's – it's really colourful and relaxed. I've been collecting food props and other beautiful pieces since I was a teenager, so it feels as if it has all finally come together in this home." IO

To contact Bourke & Sons Constructions, call 0417 310 453.
For more on architect Clare Cousins, visit clarecousins.com.au.

bright idea

Create a space for your kids that grows with them. The pegboard displays art, the drawers tuck away Lego and puzzles, and the daybed is a reading spot.





1. Entry
2. Sitting room
3. Study
4. Master bedroom
5. Walk-in robe
6. Ensuite
7. Woody's room
8. Laundry/ powder room
9. Living area
10. Kitchen
11. Dining area
12. Kids' bathroom
13. Playroom
14. Saskia's room
15. Erzsike's room

KIDS' BATHROOM (opposite, right) "We wanted the kids' bathroom to be a bit of fun, so we chose these yellow tiles from Signorino Tile Gallery," says Bec. **OUTDOORS** The curved timber deck sits in stack contrast with the modern black-framed doors.

MASTER BEDROOM Plantation shutters were fitted to control the amount of light in the room. The bedside lamps are from Luke Furniture. The ceiling rose and shelves are original fixtures. A Grazia & Co chair **(opposite, top)** sits under a photo of the twins by Kate Monotti.
BATHROOM (opposite, bottom) Astra Walker copper taps and a Grazia & Co stool add a luxe feel.

lessons learnt

"It's much better to work with someone who's actually there on the tools" BEC UDVARY, HOMEOWNER

"Our wonderful builder had moved onto commercial jobs, and the builder we contracted for the second part of the reno was overcommitted, so he doled the work out to subcontractors. We weren't aware that this was how the job would be done. It's much better to work with someone who's actually there on the tools, so you can speak to them if there's an issue. It took five phone calls and a week to get the plumber/electrician/painter back on site. Then we had to book a time to fix it. It was all very time consuming!"

What has worked well? "Having two distinct gardens has been great. The front garden is very separate – it's the perfect place for my vegie garden and for letting the chickens roam. The open-plan extension overlooks the backyard so I can watch the kids."

star performer

Try a mid-sized furniture piece for extra impact. This Grazia & Co bench catches the eye with not only its form but also its complementary tones.





5 GREAT FINDS



1

'Round' **vase** in Red, $96, Mud Australia, mudaustralia.com.



2

'Luxor' wool **rug** (250cm x 305cm), $9500, Robyn Cosgrove, robyncosgrove.com.



3

'Stol' **side chair** in Yellow, from $300, Thonet, thonet.com.au.

4

'Pinasse Quarter' embroidered **cushion** with tassels, $74.90, Citta Design, cittadesign.com.



5

AGxCult 'Loom' **armchair** by Adam Goodrum, $1238, Cult, cultdesign.com.au.

on the surface



'25903 Circulaire' encaustic cement **tile** in Black & White, $160/m/2, Bespoke Tile & Stone, bespoketileandstone.com. 'Escape Twist' wool **carpet** in Chase, from $90/sqm (including installation), Supertuft, supertuft.com.au. 'Placa' gloss ceramic **tile** in Yellow, $98/sqm, Academy Tiles, academytiles.com.au.

'5 GREAT FINDS' AND 'ON THE SURFACE' PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

cheat sheet

Who lives here: Architect Adriano Pupilli and his fiancée, Fiona Logge, a project manager.
Style of house: A 1930s Art Deco ground-floor garden apartment in Sydney's Manly.

The couple lived in the unit for six months before moving out for the two-month renovation.

The renovation cost $80k, covering structural work, painting, built-in joinery, and internal fittings and finishes.



small wonder

With just 42 square metres to work with, this architect had to find creative small-space solutions for his own Sydney apartment

WORDS **LYNNE TESTONI** PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD**



1 come to light

Despite being 'poky and dingy', Adriano (pictured) and Fiona's 1930s apartment offered high ceilings and original features, such as the double-hung windows and hardwood floors, which the couple discovered under the carpet. "We came from a studio apartment so we were OK with living in just the one space," says Adriano. "We pulled out walls, which enabled us to get these diagonal views and give a sense of space." The inviting yellow entry (opposite) is a sign of the out-of-the-box thinking behind the unit's revamp.

Tip: Celebrate the heritage of your home – restoring windows and floorboards is a good starting point.



2 making it count

A compact space calls for a practical yet streamlined cooking zone. This one has a hidden washing machine and white laminated birch plywood cabinetry with recessed pulls. "I worked with a really good joiner, Erich Gruber [of Fine Earth Joinery]," says Adriano. The industrial-look lights were designed by Adriano with his plumber, teaming crafted copper piping with light fittings from Tovo Lighting.
Tip: Take a galley kitchen to the next level with deep cabinetry and a tough stainless-steel benchtop.

3 above the fold

At the opposite end of the living space is a storage unit that is one half utility (a pull-out desk with storage for files and stationery) and one half personal (library, picture frames and accessories). "If you're going to have enough living space in a one-bedder, you have to make it work hard," says Adriano. Having this hidden desk allows the living zone to "turn more into a space where people can gather, hang out and converse".
Tip: Make petite proportions work by using feature walls to separate and define each zone in an open-plan area.



paint match
For a bright entry, try 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Yellow Mania, $45.50/2L, British Paints, 132 525.

"We've created a bit of both worlds, somewhere between a studio and a one-bedder" ADRIANO PUPILLI, OWNER

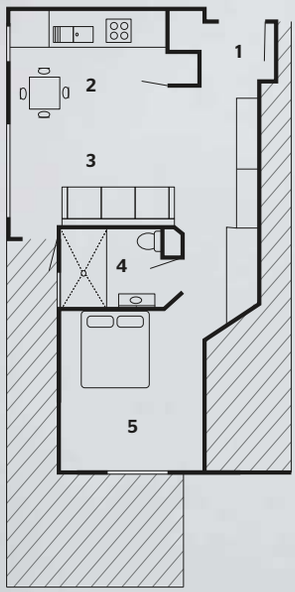


4 multiple tables

This hoop-pine plantation plywood table was designed and fabricated by Adriano. Its clever design features two drop leaves, which is ideal for this open living/dining/office space. 'Frosta' stools from Ikea complement both the tones and the flexibility of the table and a pendant light from Citta Design completes the look. Adriano was heavily involved in not only the design elements of the renovation, but "I was often on site helping our builder, Anthony Joseph [of East Coast Homes] with some manual labour".

Tip: Look for flexible, portable designs for a small space. Multipurpose stools are ideal as seats and side tables.

Plywood plays a major role in the success and look of this home, so why did Adriano choose it? "It's a modest, beautiful and versatile material," he says.



1. Entry
2. Kitchen/laundry
3. Living/dining/office area
4. Bathroom
5. Master bedroom



5 welcome change

During the day, living space is maximised by the open-plan design but a hidden panel slides across to close off the bedroom come nighttime. The plywood panel behind the bed serves as a bedhead and shelf support, as well as housing the sliding door behind it. "In a small space you have to push everything to the max," says Adriano. "I've always been into joinery and that kind of Swiss-Army-knife style joinery – where everything pops out for different purposes."

Tip: Go for a bed frame designed to work in a small zone. This one floats over the floor, has a window seat/storage box and also has space under the bed for more storage.

6 quality finish

"The water for the whole block needed to be switched off whenever we had to install a new tap, so there were lots of chats with neighbours to keep everyone happy," says Adriano of creating this pared-back bathroom. The simple approach allows the quality of the cement tiles and cedar timber to shine. "Using timber and cement creates a balance between cold and warm materials," says Adriano. IO

For more of Adriano's work, visit adrianopupilli.com.au.

Tip: Stick to a limited colour palette and material choice to maximise space in a narrow bathroom.

ARTWORKS FROM THE KALTJITI. IWANTJA AND NINUKU ABORIGINAL ART CENTRES



"The bed projects over the passageway, allowing the floor to disappear underneath" ADRIANO PUPILLI, OWNER



LIVING AREA Anita and Jesper's home leaves tired Christmas clichés in the past, with a smart streamlined palette acting as a backdrop for the hand-cut Scottish pine tree. Sparse decoration of the tree lets its form take centre stage, with pooch Sally in a supporting role.

merry & bright

You don't have to dress your spaces in the razzle dazzle of the season – this refined Danish home proves the majesty of simple Christmas style

WORDS & STYLING **LYKKE FOGED** PHOTOGRAPHY **MORTEN HOLTUM/LYKKE FOGED/LIVING INSIDE**



cheat sheet

Who lives here: Anita Schytte, director of her firm Note Room, which distributes Nordic brands to the world and offers design strategy; husband Jesper; and dogs Sally and Silke.
Style of house: A four-bedroom, two-bathroom 1932 former school set on half a hectare of land in the Danish port town of Korsør.





LIVING AREA (above) A Gervasoni 'Ghost' sofa and armchair set the light and bright tone of this space, with a Piet Heins 'Superellipse' table adding to the crisp look. Flashes of greenery bring a warm quality that works well with the earthy feel of the rosewood floor. **ENTRY (above right)** Cinnamon sticks, candles and a pine branch from the garden welcome guests with a nostalgic and festive scent. **KITCHEN** This space is designed to accommodate breakfast meals by the window or a spot of lunch with the paper. IKEA cabinetry offers storage down one wall with steel pulls from Carl F. The benchtop is solid mahogany to match the rosewood floor, and the grey tone of the wall adds to the polished feel.

When she was a girl, Anita Schytte used to visit this house – where one of her school friends lived – and dreamt of making it her own. When it came on the market in 1994, Anita, husband Jesper (who is also from the area) and their daughter, Nini, jumped at the chance to return to their roots and enjoy this slice of countryside between the forest and the sea.

Taking on the design of a big house may seem quite a challenge for most, but having been in the interiors game for many years, Anita relished the chance to get creative in the space she had long coveted. "Some people count sheep – I decorate," she says. "Interior decorating is everything to me. It's what I've worked with for the better part of my adult life and it's what I do well."

A monochromatic palette gives the house sleek appeal with plenty of warmth via soft textures to balance the cooler tones. Beautiful finishing touches such as candles and eye-catching plants fill the home, both inside and out. "We have more than 40 old trees that produce plenty of fruit but also look beautiful all year, regardless of the season," says Jesper.

Christmas time suits this home. In the oven, osso buco is slowly cooking and the scent of the pine tree fills the rooms. The tree has been hand-trimmed for six years, and the pared-back decorations – simple paper baubles and fabric cones – sit among its wonderfully thick, green foliage. Candles and cuttings from the garden and add to the traditionally festive look. "They increase the cosy feel when the days are shorter and darker," says Anita.

In Denmark, the biggest celebration occurs on Christmas Eve when gifts are exchanged and families come together to eat, drink and be merry. Anita's menu offers traditional roast duck and *risalamande* – a rice dessert served with cherry sauce. An abundance of presents is a must. "We don't give our children gifts very often, but at Christmas we go over the top," says Anita. "Over the past 30 years we have also celebrated December 27 here with all our old friends and their children, who now have their own families. Everyone turns up with a dish and we have a wonderful time. Our granddaughter, Luca, will be here, too, so Christmas Day is all about movies and chocolate." 10





“Over the past 30 years we have celebrated here with all our old friends and their children” ANITA SCHYTTE, HOMEOWNER



A garland of pine branches has a festive feel without looking too flashy – plus, the scent evokes all the best Christmas memories.

DINING AREA The home's dining zone connects with the living space, creating an entertaining hub. All eyes are on the spacious timber dining table, made by Jesper, who used oak beams treated with white pigment for the top. Arne Jacobsen's 'Series 7' chairs covered in beaver skins offer seating and Philippe Starck pendant lamps illuminate the space perfectly for a family gathering. The two paintings on the left wall are by Anita's mother, a Hungarian artist named Maria Kiralyfalvy.

GUEST BEDROOM Anita and Jesper's granddaughter Luca has her own room for frequent stays. "This is her second home," says Anita. The shelf above the bed is made from an upcycled piece of timber from a horse's stable that used to exist on the property – it's a handy nook for books and trinkets.



bright idea

Make the most of dead space by installing a shelf that fits in odd dimensions. You'll add precious storage and a cute visual feature.

"Some people count sheep – I decorate. Interior decorating is everything to me"

ANITA SCHYTTE, HOMEOWNER

5 GREAT FINDS



1

'Gx Round' **pendant light**, from $578.60, ISM Objects, ismobjects.com.au.



2

Gervasoni 'Ghost 18' **sofa**, $6885, Anibou, anibou.com.au.



3

'Pyrmont' **dining table**, $2495, Urban Couture, urbancouture.com.au.



4

Extra overdyed **rug**, (120cm x 80cm) $699, HK Living Australia, hkliving.com.au.

5

'Elegance' short **decanter**, $299, Waterford, waterfordcrystal.com.au.

'5 GREAT FINDS' AND 'ON THE SURFACE' PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) SAM McADAM-COOPER



"Dark accents add definition to the home's smart and simple palette"

JOSEPH GARDNER, MARKET EDITOR

on the surface

'Clean & Protect' interior low sheen **paint** in Dark Silhouette, $60.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525. 'Variano' oak **engineered flooring** in Espresso, $79/sqm, Quick-Step, quick-step.com.au. 'Neutra' porcelain **tiles** in Bianco, $97/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.com.au.





DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.

time to shine

Even a seasoned renovator encountered problems with this overhaul of a holiday home, but the end result was well worth it

WORDS **CLARE PATIENCE** STYLING **NATALIE JAMES** PHOTOGRAPHY **NICOLE ENGLAND**



Who lives here: Janine Allis, founder of Boost Juice and *Shark Tank* star; her husband; and their families and friends with children of all ages.

Style of house: A total renovation has transformed the house into a modern, open-plan home with soaring three-metre high windows, a state-of-the-art kitchen and beautiful living spaces.

The project began in February 2014, and was finished by December that year.

$$$$ "We started with a budget of $1.3 million for the build," says Janine, but unforeseen issues took the total to more than $2 million.



OPEN-PLAN LIVING Seamless joinery in the kitchen – which disguises pockets to hide appliances – acts as a backdrop for earthy-toned furniture that mirrors the island and flooring. The white cabinetry and cool marble elements face windows, amping up the natural light.

MAKING A START

If you were to pick a movie this sleek and streamlined beach home might feature in, *Mad Max* probably wouldn't be at the top of the list. But before its most recent renovation, this 1970s quintessential Australian beach house, set in a remarkable sand dune landscape, captured the imagination of the makers of that famous dystopian and madcap cinematic masterpiece – and it featured in the original film.

Today, the home's sophisticated and elegant feel has elevated it to a new kind of silver-screen-worthy style, one that would definitely have a happily-ever-after element. "When we purchased the house, it was a financial stretch for us," says Janine. "We had to rent it out during the peak summer period for the first five years. The property had a few stop-start renovations, and they were always on a tight budget – it was more of a Lego effect or add-on rather than a holistic approach."

As the family grew so do did their needs, and this renovation of the house concentrated on the future and capitalising on the stunning surrounds. "This was the first time we had focused on updating the house in its entirety," says Janine.





DREAM IT.

After discovering award-winning kitchen and bathroom designers Simona Castagna and Darren Genner of Minosa on several Pinterest boards, Janine knew she wanted to work with them on the beach house. "I specifically needed assistance with the kitchen and bathroom and I liked what I saw with Minosa," says Janine. "My niece Tiffany Cashman is an interior designer with her own business, Muchacha Designs, and I have always loved her eye for detail, so with Minosa doing the wet areas, Tiffany was left to do the rest."

Janine was ready to make the most of the home's incredible position and, as a seasoned renovator, she knew exactly what was needed to capitalise on the full potential of the beach house. Plus, she excelled in the art of Googling home renovations and navigating Pinterest. "The main driver was to make the inside and outside feel like one," says Janine. "We have a unique position and we wanted the home to reflect its location."

light and bright

The view seems to float in front of the kitchen. The island bench, made of Calacatta marble from Artedomus, perfectly suits this open zone.



digital age

Minosa created virtual tours of Janine's home to show her their ideas. Check the videos out on YouTube: youtube.com/user/Minosa09/videos.

the woodboard

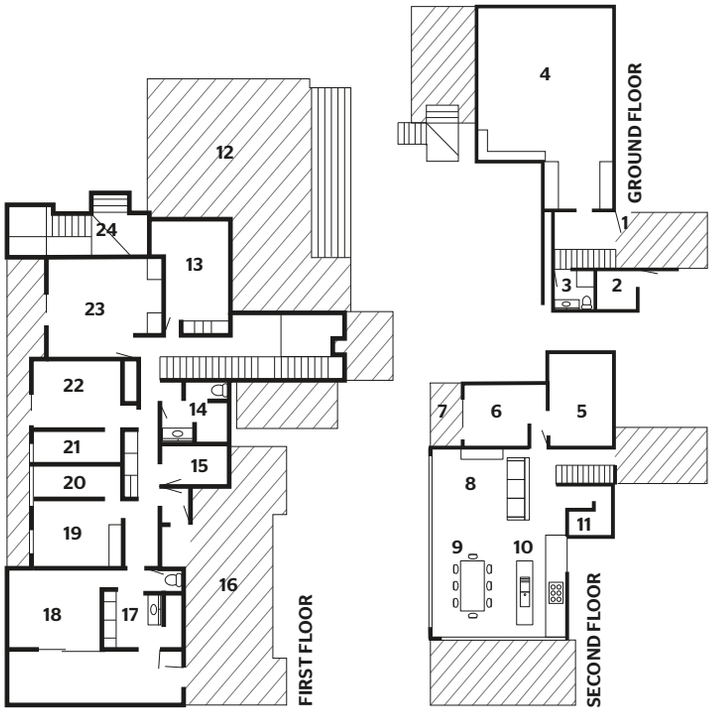






Janine's wishlist

+ **huge windows** Make the most of the views with three-metre high windows facing the ocean
+ **contemporary kitchen** A streamlined space that can stash away clutter
+ **beautiful bathrooms** Serene wet-room-style bathrooms with modern finishes and fittings with special attention to the parents' retreat
+ **open-plan with distinct spaces** Create central zones that have an open-plan design that still offers a sense of intimacy



1. Entry
2. Storage
3. Powder room
4. Games room
5. Ensuite
6. Bedroom
7. Deck
8. Living area
9. Dining area
10. Kitchen
11. Powder room
12. Deck
13. Bedroom
14. Bathroom
15. Laundry
16. Pool terrace
17. Ensuite
18. Bedroom
19. Bedroom
20. Ensuite
21. Ensuite
22. Bedroom
23. Living area
24. Stairs

DESIGN IT.

As Minosa is based in Sydney, Janine worked on the design with Simona and Darren using email, Skype and YouTube. "The briefing process is very in-depth – we try to get to know the clients and how the spaces will be used. We ask questions about what style of cooking they do and how often they do a grocery shop – just so we can get an understanding of storage needs," says Darren.

The first thing Darren and Simona focused on was the layout. "The kitchen was where the lounge is, and the lounge was where the kitchen is now. We felt that you always had your back to the windows," says Simona. The design team's input was about making the spaces flow and adapt to modern living. Balancing the incredible outdoor environment was another starting point for the team. "The views are commanding and you can't compete with that," says Darren. "Top of mind was integrating the home with the outdoors."

Attention was given to the parents' ensuite. The views, a major part of Janine's brief, are the centrepiece of the room, and the luxe bathroom is discreet and modern with well thought-through touches. "The main bathroom was a major challenge for us," says Simona. "It explores space and function, and brings the amazing views into the room. A centre wall divides the space, tucking the toilet around and away from the main space and concealing it behind a frosted glass door."

With the details all worked out, Simona and Darren used 3D CAD software to bring Janine's ideas to life. "We wanted Janine to have an amazing understanding of the design," says Simona.





outlook

Harnessing the stellar views of the natural surroundings was one of the most important details of the brief.

lessons learnt

"Often, communication falls apart during the process. Make sure any variations are in writing"

JANINE ALLIS, OWNER

DO IT.

With more than four renovations and two house builds to her name, Janine is no stranger to the renovation game. Knowing exactly what she wanted and when, she pulled the project together. "I don't think a year has gone by that I haven't built or renovated something, so I was well down the path for this project," she says. "As I've done this many times, I knew there would be problems, it's all a part of the process; having experience helps you work through them."

Janine acted as the conduit between Minosa, architect Tim Ditchfield of Tim Ditchfield Architects, interior designer Tiffany Cashman, Spence Construction and the foreman, and enjoyed the a relatively trouble-free project. "Getting good professional people around you is the best way to avoid any complications," she says.

The most painful aspect of the build was meeting the new fire-safety requirements. "Complying with the strict regulations involved changing many of the agreed materials for ones that met new codes. It was expensive," says Janine. In fact, the already pricey build almost doubled in cost but the team worked through, keeping their final vision in focus. "We were disappointed that the budget went over $2 million," says Janine. "We ended up having to replace every wall. The house was taken to the ground and started again."

But the detailed process was worth it. The house connects to the unforgettable landscape and deepens the family's longstanding connection with the area. "Much of what I really love about this house is on the outside," says Janine.



BEDROOM (left) The drama of black-framed windows is contrasted with the room's soft details. Raffia wallpaper from Boyd Blue adds texture to the zone with a pendant light from Euroluce hanging serenely.
BATHROOM (below) A common thread is woven through the home's hardest-working spaces via the use of Calacatta marble in the kitchen and bathrooms. This bathroom also features elegant Gessi mixers and basins, which add to the sense of luxury.



the best bits

+ **casual living** "The living area upstairs is my favourite – it's more about what's outside than inside," says Janine.
+ **minimising clutter** Sleek and discreet storage in the open-plan living and kitchen area.
+ **capitalising on the incredible location** Large windows that open out to the stunning surrounds.
+ **quiet elegance** Understated luxury in the bathrooms.

renovation 101

inner-city

A Sydney family are looking at giving refresh, complete with a granny flat *experts* talk through all the exciting



THE MULCAHY FAMILY



The yard is quite large and our experts think that a studio unit could be a real possibility.



The current kitchen only gets natural light from the adjoining laundry's skylight.

WHAT NEEDS TO GO

Here's what Sara doesn't like about her home at the moment

- ☒ the house is too dark – the kitchen gets barely any natural light
- ☒ there's not enough space for growing kids and visiting family. Is an extra room, or even a granny flat, an option to solve this?
- ☒ the uneven floor levels between the laundry and kitchen
- ☒ the daggy exterior needs a refresh

terrace

their beloved house a total out the back. *Our panel of* possibilities

WORDS **FIONA JOY** PHOTOGRAPHY **NIGEL LOUGH**



The end position of the terrace has both pros and cons.

CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Sara Mulcahy, a writer and editor, and her children Rafael, 5, and Peggy, 20 months.
Style of house: A circa-1900 end-of-terrace house in inner-city Sydney.

the story so far

Sara bought the house in late 2008 and did some essential work soon after moving in: she replaced the decrepit kitchen and deck and, later, the downstairs bathroom as there was no bath in the house. Sara loves the house and it works well as a family home but, as she says, "There is so much that needs doing, I could easily spend $50k on it and no-one would even notice."

what's not working?

The yard, which is off to the right of the house (it's built onto a neighbouring property at the back), benefits from the northern sun but the downstairs interior is quite dark, especially the kitchen which has no windows and relies on a skylight over the laundry area for natural light. With two young children and regular overseas visitors including the grandparents, Sara would like to explore the potential to add an extra bedroom.

what do they need?

Sara is looking for advice on ideas and tricks to bring in more light into the house. The terrace's roof is flat so she wonders if it's possible to build up – Sara has seen other houses in the neighbourhood where this has been achieved and is keen to find out whether it's a viable option for her own home.



THE REALTOR

Annie Hodgson
Spencer Servi,
spencerservi.net.au

the market

The market is performing well in Surry Hills and auction results are strong, according to Annie. "Buyers are diverse," she says. "Some are keen simply to buy in the area but, generally, I find it's young couples and young families who are looking." The Bourke Street and Crown Street public schools are an attraction, as is the walking distance to the city and the nearby parklands. "This all means that it's a terrace that couples are looking for and usually a renovated property, so they can move straight in and start living the Surry Hills lifestyle," says Annie.

the opportunity

In its current condition, Annie believes the property is worth around $1.75 million. "With full styling, sparkling windows and fresh flowers, you would be looking towards $2 million," she says. "This property is unique with the double-width block and the off-street parking is an absolute bonus." Introducing more light would definitely add value, and there is scope to improve the layout; the addition of another bedroom would be great. She does warn that to renovate "is not a wee job here" and would mean considerable outlay that would not be recouped in the short term.

THE BUDGET

$400k

There are a few things Sara wants to do immediately, such as bringing in extra light and giving the exterior a makeover. Longer term she expects she would have to spend $300-400K on major works.

*ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK



THE ARCHITECT

Andrew Benn
Director, Benn + Penna Architecture, bennandpenna.com

bringing in the light

Andrew agrees the downstairs level is dark and says this is a common problem in terraces, which are inherently 'badly designed' in terms of making the most of the light. He suggests a few cosmetic improvements that would make the kitchen area brighter, such as sun tunnels to pull down natural light from above, and sanding the darkened varnish off the floor and replacing it with a light wash. But he has another, more radical suggestion: "This whole back area is the wrong way around," he declares. "The bathroom would be better located in the darker area of the house. Then the kitchen could extend into the space the large bathroom and laundry now occupy. It's under the skylights and, with some creative building work, could then open it onto the adjoining living area and the deck."

a space for a granny flat

Andrew discusses the two ideas of building up on the flat roof or adding a fourth bedroom on the lower back part of the house, both of which he thinks have good potential. But when Sara asks about the prospect of subdividing, he gets more enthusiastic. "You could definitely put a granny flat over the area currently used for parking," he says. "A one-bedroom granny flat shouldn't be a problem with planning as there are plenty of houses in the suburb that have already done it. You could even have a rooftop garden; the council here has a 'green roof' policy so it would likely be supportive of a project that complies. And the city views would be spectacular."



THE STYLIST

Lisa Koehler
ISCD educator, stylist and interior decorator

small space styling

If Sara was to go ahead with the studio, it would result in a long, narrow living area that Lisa has a few ideas on how to furnish to optimise the available space. "Select your big pieces first," she advises. "Choose a sofa with low arms, so it doesn't feel imposing when you enter the space, and opt for a round dining table as they generally take up less space and allow for better traffic flow as they have no hard corners."

Artwork can also play a big part in defining areas and tricking the eye about the proportions of a room. "I would consider a combination of sizes and materials with artwork," says Lisa. "Plan the layout of your artwork as you would a furniture layout by deciding on the best position for the largest piece – which is often opposite a dining table – then try a cluster of three or four smaller framed pieces above the sofa."

open-plan considerations

When dealing with a restructure of a floorplan, it's integral to consider the impact on the other rooms – especially the living area. "In Sara's case if she goes with Andrew's idea to move the kitchen, we are left with just one usable wall for the TV placement – I'd suggest a custom joinery unit that floats off the ground and maximises the space and storage," says Lisa. "I would also go with a three-seater sofa with legs and low arm detail to face the TV area, paired with a single armchair. The important thing is to have flexibility, keep the space open visually and make the most of the view to the courtyard."

PHOTOGRAPHY: (PANEL PORTRAITS) NIGEL LOUGH. *ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK





THE FINANCE EXPERT

Meg Bonighton
NAB general manager – home lending, nab.com.au

rise of the granny flat

Granny flats are fast gaining popularity with homeowners as they enable a separate occupancy on the same block of land, without having to subdivide. As such it's not only a great option for hosting visitors; it's also a fantastic way to generate additional cash flow through rental income as well as increase the property's value if and when you decide to sell.

So how to finance it? "If you have enough equity in your home, redrawing from your existing home loan can be a simple solution," says Meg. "A new loan, such as a building and construction loan, will allow you to draw on it progressively as invoices come in. Lenders will take into consideration the potential increased value of your property, as long as you have a licensed builder doing the work."

Understanding how much your home is worth – as Sara has in this case – can also help you structure your renovation budget and manage the risk of overcapitalising. "Knowing what your house is worth now and what it might be worth once your renovation is complete can help you set and manage your budget so that you don't overcapitalise," says Meg.



1. Jute **laundry basket**, $160, Table Tonic, tabletonic.com.au. **2.** 'Truva Fine Stripe' **hand towel**, $29, Atoylia, atoylia.com. **3.** 'Retro' **chair**, $699, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **4.** *Found Form* framed **artwork** by Jordan Conaghan, $795, Penny Farthing Design House, pennyfarthingdh.com.au. **5.** Issy By Zuster 'Z1' custom **mirror**, $1276, Reece, reece.com.au. **6.** 'Muro 41 Milk Matt' **tiles**, $195/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.com.au. **7.** Issy By Zuster 'Z1' custom **vanity unit**, $3837, Reece, as before. **8.** 'Vittoria Iris' **sofa**, $3164, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.



THE BUILDER

Wayd Munro
Focusbuild, focusbuild.com.au

outdoor opportunity

Wayd is also excited by the thought of using half the garden space to build a good-sized studio accommodation. "It's a big yard for the area," he says. "With some smart landscaping, you'd still have a reasonable outdoor space attached to the house, although you wouldn't want to lose the parking in terms of value. We could build a garage with a laundry/storage area at the back and the granny flat over two levels above it. The great thing about a project like this is that there'd be minimum disruption – the family wouldn't have to move out during the build, and once complete, it could generate a decent income when not in use by guests."

reworking the space

"The back area of the house needs completely rethinking," says Wayd, agreeing with Andrew. "It's not an easy build but you could definitely take down part of the original back wall of the house that separates the dining room from the kitchen and put in a beam to support the walls above. That would flood the northern light into the dark living area. If you didn't want to go completely open plan from front to back, you could think about reinstating the wall between the current living and dining areas, or install salvaged double doors. That way you get an extra occasional spare bedroom as part of the package."

stepping up

The home currently has a step down to the laundry area and a further two down into the kitchen, which Sara says is a concern with a toddler in the house. (And Rafael complains that he can't scoot freely from one end of the house to the other.) "The different floor levels need sorting out," says Wayd. "At the moment, you have to step down into the kitchen and there's evidence of damp because the kitchen floor is basically resting on the ground. But the head height is huge, so there's no reason why it can't be lifted up to be level with the rest of the downstairs." For the overall flow of the house, it would be money well spent.

THE TIMEFRAME

According to Wayd, building a granny flat would take about six months, planning issues notwithstanding.

renovation 101

how to sell your own

With real-estate agency commission costs sitting at an it seems like a no-brainer to do it yourself. *So why aren't*



When Rachel Brisbane decided to sell her house in the Melbourne suburb of Kensington earlier this year, she wanted to do it without employing the services of an agent. Nine days after listing, she sold it for just over the top end of her price range. She spent $1300 with online sales site buymyplace.com.au and saved about $25,000 in real-estate agents' commission.

"I hadn't had enough good experiences with agents in general to feel confident that they would have my best interests at heart," she reasons. "So I thought, 'Look, I'm ready to do this'. It was very easy."

Rachel is part of a very small minority. There are no official figures on how many Australian homes are sold without an agent but estimates come in at between two to four per cent. In some parts of the world it's more popular; in the UK, the process is fast gathering fans with property guru and TV presenter Sarah Beeny (who also owns Tepilo, one of the leading online agencies) predicting that by 2020, half of all home sales in the UK will be done online and direct through the owner.

where to start

Agent-free selling is in its infancy here. That's not to say there aren't plenty of people ready to help: Agent In A Box (agentinabox.com.au), Your Hot Property (yourhotproperty.com.au), For Sale By Owner (forsalebyowner.com.au), BuyMyPlace (buymyplace.com.au) and PropertyNow (propertynow.com.au) are among those trumpeting the benefits, the biggest and most obvious of which is the money you save. Commission charges vary (see opposite) but the average Australian seller pays 2.22 per cent of the sale price to an agent. The national median house price sits at $571,500*, so that's nearly $13,000. With online packages coming in between $295 for the absolute basic and $1000+ for all the bells and whistles, it sounds like an easy decision to ditch the agent.

Melbourne-based BuyMyPlace was first into the game in 2009 and is Australia's biggest sell-it-yourself site. Head of Operations Stephenie Pulis-Cassar says the past 12 months have seen huge year-on-year growth. "It's been an educational process for the Australian public," she says. "What we find is that when one property lists with us in a suburb, within the next few weeks more will follow." And the statistics are encouraging. "Around 70 per cent of properties sell within 90 days and 30 per cent within 30 days," says Stephenie. "And nearly 80 per cent sell for the same or more than the price quoted by a local agent."

what to consider

Apart from the obvious advantages of saving money, Stephenie says vendors benefit from being in control of the sale. "I bought a place recently and I found at open for inspections, I'd ask the agent what

*AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 2014. PHOTOGRAPHY: ANSON SMART. STYLING: MARIA DYONIZIAK. ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK.

home

Australian average of around $13,000, *you doing it?* WORDS **FIONA JOY**

the body corporate fees were or how old the place was and they'd say they didn't know, they'd have to check and get back to me, which nine times out of 10 they didn't."

Colin Sacks, director of For Sale By Owner, agrees. "The service you get from agents in the inner city is quite polished, but it's not like that everywhere," he says. "One guy rang me and said his agent had told him not to call him! This way, you control the process. You hear the feedback, you know how many calls there have been. You know your property best and because of that you can often sell for more. Agents aren't going anywhere, but people deserve to have the choice."

how it works

Online packages work on a sliding scale and may or may not include listing on realestate.com.au and the Chinese international property site juwai.com; professional photos; copywriting; signage and sold sticker; negotiation services and phone and email advice. Most homes are sold by private treaty, although auctions can be facilitated. Stephenie says the top mistakes people make include "overpricing, taking your own photos and not getting back to potential buyers promptly". A lot of it comes down to common sense.

But can it really be as easy as it seems? For the voice of reason, you should look up the advice offered by the Government Fair Trading or Consumer Affairs body responsible for regulation in your state. Fair Trading NSW, for example, cautions that "if you decide to sell your property without the assistance of an agent, you will need to do quite a bit of homework before tackling the job yourself. As a starting point, a residential property cannot be advertised for sale until a contract of sale has been prepared. It is important you consult a solicitor or conveyancer about preparing the contract to make sure everything is in order."

the other side of the story

Andrew Winter, host of Foxtel's *Selling Houses Australia* and a real-estate agent of 24 years, has a typically robust opinion on selling your own home. "Some people tell you that as a homeowner you are the best person to sell your house when in fact you are the worst, because you're totally biased and every purchaser knows that," says Andrew. "The astute buyer will work out what you're saving on agent's fees and adjust their offer accordingly. And if that's the case then you've done all that work for absolutely nothing."

And he says you'll never know if you've maximised your price because while you can quote comparable sales, "If you've not had any involvement in the marketing of those other properties or know how long it took to sell or what the offer levels were, it's almost irrelevant."

Most online players are keen to point out that buyers love the transparency but Andrew disputes this, too, especially among first home buyers. "Tricky negotiations face to face? They're just not going to want to deal with the seller direct," he says.

So what does the future hold? Will we all be selling our properties online in 20 years' time? Will high street agencies be a thing of the past? Andrew believes that, to the contrary, the astute real-estate agents will be the ones leading the way.

"The brighter real-estate agent chains and the independents are going to adapt. I think you'll be able to buy the all-in service or you may be able to package that service so that you end up paying less and doing some of the work yourself. Agencies may start to offer their own online services for a lower rate then; if you wanted to buy in the valuation or have someone run the inspections or the negotiations, they have someone there ready to go who is locally based. It's an evolution of the industry and I think it's going to be the most tuned-in real-estate companies that evolve it."

the facts about real-estate agent commission fees

1 Rates vary from agent to agent and from state to state. SA has the lowest average rate at 2.07 per cent and Tasmania the highest at 3.26 per cent. NSW comes in at 2.11 per cent but in high-density suburbs where competition for your money is fierce, prices can be as low as 1.75 per cent.

2 Commissions can be fixed rate or tiered. Tiered means there's a sliding scale and generally means you pay one rate for the ballpark sales price and anything over that gets charged at a higher percentage, as an added incentive for the agent.

3 Don't forget about GST. Agent commissions are liable for the usual 10 per cent.

4 Commission fees rarely include advertising costs so get a quote for these, too (in writing) so you can see the total of what you're up for.

5 You can negotiate. As a rule of thumb, the more your house is worth, the lower the rate you can pitch.

6 Remember, if you don't sell, you don't pay. Aside from basic marketing costs, real-estate agent services are free up to the point that they sell your property.

what's your style? attic *conversions*

Planning on going up in the world? Be inspired by these creative uses



1 PARIS RETREAT

The perfect master bedroom in a large and busy family home

Architect: Olivier Chabaud Architects (olivierchabaud.com).
Style of project: Complete renovation of a 19th-century pavilion.

This third-floor parents' retreat is part of a full renovation of a home in one of Europe's most densely populated suburbs, Bois-Colombes, about nine kilometres north west of the centre of Paris. The intention was to create a harmonious place for family life. The former attic space now houses a large master bedroom complete with dressing room and ensuite bathroom, all developed using simple, natural materials and making a stunning feature of the original beams.
Central to the space's success is the addition of numerous windows and skylights, which ensure that the full effect of the natural light can play up the dramatic conversion. Custom-made furniture in earthy timber tones plays to the incredible beams – the star of the space – and was also created with an eye to add storage. Clever timber joinery keeps all the bits and bobs that go with a bedroom hidden away and also works to define the separate zones of this area – although the bath is kept freestanding and open beside the windows for a luxurious feel.

The timber flooring in the bedroom gives way seamlessly to colour-matched stone tiles in the wet areas, allowing uniformity of style with the practicalities of an open-plan ensuite.

This attic conversion was part of a full home transformation that took approximately five months.



2 SYDNEY HANGOUT

This bedroom offers a relaxed grown-up zone for a teenager

Interior designer: Dimity Chitty of Hare + Klein (hareklein.com.au).
Style of project: Extra accommodation for a growing family.

The tired top storey of this majestic home on Sydney's North Shore was refurbished to house a master suite and three bedrooms. This space, built by the team at Yuncken (yuncken.net.au), was replastered and fitted with new windows and skirting before the interior designer moved in. The brief was to create a contemporary, light and fun interior suitable for a soon-to-be teenager.
Separate zones were created for sleep, homework and chilling out. All the joinery – including desk and shelving – is bespoke; a window seat area and robe incorporate further storage and display. Among the challenges was resolving the lighting layouts and air-conditioning with the changes in pitch of the raked ceilings.

Walls, ceiling and joinery are all painted in Dulux Natural White to reflect light. Other joinery features Eveneer veneer in Evenoak with a 10 per cent satin polyurethane finish.

The renovation of the top floor was one part of a major demolition and reno, which took two-and-a-half years.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (1) PHILIPPE HARDEN, (2) MARIAN RIABIC, (3) COURTESY OF LANDMARK LOFTS, (4) TERENCE TOURANGEAU

of roof space from all around the globe

WORDS **FIONA JOY**



3 LONDON SPA
A clever master suite escape where space is at a premium

Builder: Landmark Lofts (landmark-lofts.com).
Style of project: A master suite addition to a West London terrace.

This is a classic example of a traditional dormer loft conversion in the UK capital where every square centimetre counts. The owners wanted to increase the space in their mid-terrace home and converted the empty loft into a bedroom and open-plan ensuite. The standing areas of the ensuite run along the wall opposite the window to keep this small and elegant zone functional.
The larger-than-average area allowed features, such as a walk-in wardrobe and wall-to-wall storage solutions. The bathroom benefits from direct natural light and total privacy, and its clean, contemporary design maximises space. The skylight also ensures good ventilation – a necessity in a zone that's prone to damp.

A bench seat in the shower is a good compromise if you don't have room to relax in a bath. It's also a handy shelf and keeps the overall design simple and uncluttered.
A dormer window conversion by a loft specialist can take as little as six to eight weeks.



4 TORONTO DEN
A space to kick back, relax and enjoy the light as day turns to night

Interior designer: Michael Krus, Tact Design (tactdesign.ca).
Style of project: A reimagining of an already usable space.

The overall attic space here is around 55 square metres with the pictured living area taking up about half of that. The attic had previously been used as a dining room but the home's new owners wanted it re-created simply as a comfortable space to relax and spend time in. Interior designer Michael was able to work with the tricky shape of the room to enhance natural light and give the space an inviting and considered feel.
To make the best use of the headroom available, storage was built into the eaves, behind floating short partitions that sit on the other side of the TV and the sofa. Indirect lighting was added behind the partitions, making the room seem wider and more functional.
To maximise the light from the large south-facing window and skylight, a pale-toned variety of maple hardwood flooring was chosen. The crisp white treatment is always a safe bet for those wanting to amp up the light factor, so the ceiling and partitions were painted in a matte white tone.

The TV shelf made to complement the flooring is a custom piece designed by Michael Krus.
The attic was part of a reno that took about four months in total. This room took only a couple weeks of that, to refinish the floor, paint and do some drywall and electrical work.

what's your style?

attic conversions



1

TILES

A tumbled edge softens this practical tile and plays on its natural character. 'Zagora' tumbled limestone **tile** (400mm x 400mm), $132/sqm, Byzantine Design, byzantinedesign.com.au.

MIRROR CABINET

Introduce light and storage in one. 'Storjorm' **mirrored cabinet** with built-in lighting, from $299, IKEA, ikea.com.au.



key to success

Contemporary finishes bring a refined feel to this space while the striking original beams are a rustic, characterful element



BATH

Give your bathroom the luxury edge with a freestanding designer bath. 'Mojo Oval 1800' **bath**, $4899, Marblo, marblobathware.com.au.



2

BEANBAG

Ever met a kid (or a dog) who didn't love a beanbag? This one will make the planet happy, too. 'Original Jeanbag' recycled-jean **beanbag**, $499, Jeanbag, jeanbag.com.au.



SISAL

Durable and easy to clean, flat-weave sisal is great in high traffic areas but also a good option for bedrooms. 'Spice' **sisal floorcovering** in Natural, $66/sqm, Green Flooring Solutions, greenflooringsolutions.com.au.



SHELVES

Make the most of shelf space to keep study stations clear. A pop of colour adds personality to a kids' zone. 'Tutemo' open **cabinets** in Light Blue and Yellow, from $35 each, IKEA, ikea.com.au.

key to success

Smart division of this area allows a study zone, reading nook and sleeping spot to exist in the one kid-friendly space

PHOTOGRAPHY: (1) PHILIPPE HARDEN, (2) MARIAN RIABIC, (3) COURTESY OF LANDMARK LOFTS, (4) TERENCE TOURANGEAU



3



SHOWERHEAD

There's nothing like a good downpour at the end of the day. 'RainCan' **showerhead**, $470, Kohler, kohler.com.au.



VANITY

A timber vanity will soften up the clinical edges of a tiled bathroom. Issy By Zuster 'Z8' **shaving cabinet and vanity**, POA, Reece, reece.com.au.







TILES

Steer away from white and into a grey palette for a look that works for him and her. 'Argila Olive' **tiles** in Shadow (75mm x 300mm), from $99/sqm, Beaumont Tiles, beaumont-tiles.com.au.

key to success
White grout highlights the tiles' moody tones, which complement the sleek fittings and fixtures



TAP

Contemporary fixtures define this space. Phoenix 'Kubus 200' curved wall-mounted **bath outlet**, $302, Reece, as before.



4



WOOD HEATER

You can't beat a real fire for a warm welcome. This one features an ash pan for easy cleaning and a spot to boil a kettle. 'Morso 1410' cast-iron **wood heater**, $1499, Abbey Fireplaces, thefireplace.com.au.



FLOORING

Maple is popular in the Northern Hemisphere for its tones and hardwearing properties. Get the look with **flooring** in New England Oak, from $70/sqm, Boral Timber, boral.com.au/timber.

key to success
A crisp and clean palette is warmed up with timber elements, while the wood heater turns this space into a cosy winter retreat



PAINT

Benjamin Moore 'Chantilly Lace' paint has a matte finish which adds a soft ambience, and Dulux has a close match. 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' **paint** in Lexicon Quarter, $41.45/1L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

ENTERTAINMENT UNIT

Recycled timber comes full of character, complete with bolt holes from a life lived to the fullest. 'Slab' Oregon-timber **bench**, from $2850, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.



KITCHEN, BED & BATH NEWS

living in style

Treat the hubs of your home to new appliances and accessories

EDITED BY **DANIELLE SELIG, MATILDA DUFFECY & BELINDA KEMP**



LINE IT UP **The Groupwork 'Simplify' customisable storage rack is now available. From $110 a piece, groupworkstudio.com.**



BREEZE ON

With sleek style and serious cooling power, the Dyson 'AM06' desk fan ($499) is just the thing to stop your home's temperature from skyrocketing this summer. Visit dyson.com.au for info.

dream team

The latest batch from bedroom brand Kip & Co features that colour and sense of fun we've come to expect. Check out the softer styles in the mix, such as the 'Pins/Haybales' linen quilt cover, $299/queen. Visit kipandco.net.au for more.



3 GREAT FINDS



La Chance 'Lalou' mirror, from $660, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.



Souda 'Pi' mirror, $814, Criteria, criteriacollection.com.au.

'Radial' floating shelf with mirror, $99.90, Citta Design, cittadesign.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (GROUPWORK) CHRISTO CROCKER, (KIP & CO) NIKOLE RAMSAY. (PORTRAIT) SEAN HIGGINS. STYLING: (KIP & CO) AMBER LENETTE, SARAH ELLISON, EMMA O'MEARA

For more new homewares, visit *insideout.com.au/products.*



mini model
The Belling 'Mini Richmond' 54cm dual fuel range cooker is perfect for a chic apartment dweller and keen entertainer. $2499, harveynorman.com.au.



mint condition
Le Creuset cookware has a new cool mint tone, which is sure to conjure fresh culinary ideas with its simple oven-to-table approach. The range is priced from $27 to $549; visit lecreuset.com.au.

MY BATHROOM...



Aaron Wong Principal designer, Alexander Pollock

My bathroom is a place of Functionality. If it were my dream bathroom, it would also be a place to escape.

What are your bathroom luxuries? Space – today's bathrooms lack this and it truly separates a normal bathroom from a luxurious one. Ideally, it would have marble flooring, furniture, an art sculpture, a chandelier or pendant light and even a rug.

The bathroom design elements that people too often overlook are... Natural lighting and good storage. By this, I mean ample space for plenty of towels, and cabinetry that doesn't blend into the walls but is a design feature in itself.

For information on Aaron's work, visit alexanderpollock.com.



SMART H2O
Delivering convenience with a splash of colour, Billi's 'Aqua Genius' tap offers boiling, chilled, still and sparkling water in an instant. 'Aqua Genius B-5000 Sparkling' levered tap, $4899, billi.com.au.

wow factor
iB Rubinetterie's 'Wow' collection combines strong lines and curves across a 23-piece range of showers, tapware and bath fillers. Prices start at $330, visit pacojaanson.com.au.



extras

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR YOU AND YOUR HOME



ZEBRANO Get your summer wardrobe sorted online. Zebrano specialises in putting together the best outfit options for day and evening wear for sizes 14 plus – from essential basics to exquisitely designed pieces. When shopping online you can use the convenient 'My Fit' tool, which helps find the best fit for you, and the team that collates your order can advise on styles that work for different body shapes. For further information and to shop online, visit **zebrano.com.au**



KITCHENAID Are you sorting out your Christmas gift list? Spoil a fellow foodie this festive season with an iconic KitchenAid stand mixer. Baking is just the beginning – you can slice, dice, mix, juice, process and make pasta with this incredible machine. Sweeten the deal with a complimentary ice-cream bowl attachment*, valued at $199.95. You will be able to create ice-cream, sorbet, gelato and a range of other delicious frozen desserts with ease. For more details, visit **kitchenaid.com.au**



TEMPLE & WEBSTER Change the look and feel of your space with some beautiful artwork. The *Desert Journey* print (pictured above) comes on poly-cotton canvas stretched over a timber frame and arrives ready to hang. Temple & Webster has a range of items for your home, including rugs, linen, lighting, dinnerware and electrical items. Become a member and enjoy the discounted prices – orders are delivered to your door. For details, visit **templeandwebster.com.au**



MYER If you love to start your day with a green smoothie, then the Vitamix 'S30' is for you. With its powerful motor, it can crush ice and blend whole-food ingredients. It comes with two handy 600ml blend-and-go beverage bottles so you can enjoy a smoothie when you're dashing out the door or once you get to work. The 1.2L blending jug is the ideal size for soups, sauces, dips and more. The Vitamix 'S30' is $845 for the coloured model; $895 for stainless steel. For more information, visit **myer.com.au**



SMEG Curvaceous and bursting with personality, the Smeg '50s-style blender is a gorgeous addition to the brand's range of small appliances. Featuring a die-cast aluminium body and a premium lightweight, 1.5L jug that is dishwasher-safe, the blender has a powerful 800W motor, ensuring maximum performance every time. The backlit control knob showcases smart design and offers four manually selectable speed settings. It comes in a variety of colours. To view the range, visit **smeg50style.com.au**



DYSON Keep your cool as the temperature rises this spring and summer, with the Dyson 'Cool™' range of quiet yet powerful bladeless fans. The collection includes the 'AM06' desk fan which is ideal for personal cooling; the 'AM07' tower fan, which is great for cooling large rooms; and the 'AM08' pedestal fan, which offers the flexibility to suit a range of cooling needs. Each of the fans produce a smooth, powerful airflow and has a built-in sleep timer. For more information, visit **dyson.com.au/fans**

*AVAILABLE ON 'KSM150' 'KSM160' AND 'KSM7581' MODELS. AVAILABLE UNTIL STOCKS LAST

out



turning a corner

A bespoke planter gives hero greenery a stronger presence

Create a lush focal point in a courtyard with a painted planter. Cluster trees and grass into one planter for a complete garden outlook. In this outdoor zone by Richard Unsworth of Garden Life, the plum-toned aluminium container gives *Banksia integrifolia* trees a striking pedestal. For more of this inner-city small-space garden, turn the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY: NICHOLAS WATT. ARTWORK: UNKNOWN



within *reach*

This garden's smart look can be put down to good design, savvy planting and the crane that it took to add the elements

WORDS **NIGEL BARTLETT** PHOTOGRAPHY **NICHOLAS WATT**



The small size of an outdoor space doesn't determine the impact it'll have on the mood of a home. If it can be seen constantly, and from multiple rooms, it takes on a significance that's far greater than its size. The internal atrium at this townhouse in Sydney's Walsh Bay is only five metres by three metres, yet garden designer Richard Unsworth knew that didn't make it a 'small' job. "This internal atrium is a restricted space, but it's dominant," says Richard, director of Garden Life. "It's two storeys high and central to the home's living areas: on three sides, you have the kitchen, the living area and the stairwell – it's an integral part of the house."

The home, built around 15 years ago, is uncompromisingly contemporary, so Richard was keen to use the outdoor space to soften the harder edges for the owners, a professional couple with two sons. The fourth side of the atrium was a large wall – a vast blank area that was the focus of the space. So, Richard broke it up and softened its look with nine handmade iron panels he'd picked up on one of his buying trips to India. "These traditional 'jali' screens from Rajasthan are used as security grilles in people's homes," he says. "They add a touch of traditional craft to the urban environment."

On the ground, a series of large-scale sandstone pieces were installed to visually increase the atrium's dimensions. "They were specifically cut to size, and then we laid them in such way that would trick the eye, stretching the space and making it look deeper," says Richard. He and his team chose pavers in Fawn from Bundanoon Sandstone because it was natural and light in colour, tying in with the local Nepean gravel that was picked to surround them. "Those natural tones prevent the look being too stark," says Richard. "We avoided using black or white for that reason."

Aside from the feature wall and the flooring, the third vital element to the atrium is the choice of plants. The atrium tends to be dark in winter but it receives blazing sunshine in summer, presenting the challenge of choosing plants that would cope in these extremes. "We didn't choose a particular style of plant, we used a combination of native, a tropical houseplant and succulents – all plants that cope well in both conditions," says Richard.

Designer Richard used pale sandstone pavers **(above)**, with the neutral tone chosen to avoid a stark look, while the surrounding gravel also softens the effect. A hollowed-out tree base **(opposite)** found on a sourcing trip to Turkey houses three aloe plants.


1


2


4


3

4 key plant picks
The species chosen by designer Richard that suit this garden

***1. Kalanchoe thyrsflora* 'Flapjacks'** "This succulent adds colour with its paddle-like foliage and loves the sunny rooftop," says Richard. The sunlight actually intensifies the red tips of the plant.

2. Banksia integrifolia "I chose this plant for its natural and wild aesthetic, and to contrast with the slick contemporary architecture," says Richard. It's a native species that copes well in the sea air, so it's a ideal choice for the bayside location.

3. Aloe vera "Aloe is such a tough performer in full shade or full sun and requires very little care," says Richard. The succulent has a sculptural look that is a striking feature in a garden.

***4. Ophiopogon jaburan* 'Mondo Grass'** "It's a great plant for shady spots," says Richard. Sitting at the feet of the *Banksia integrifolia* in the big planter, these plants add texture to the zone.

In one large custom-made planter sit two *Banksia integrifolia* trees, which Richard loves for their "wild and natural style". They work well with their bespoke aluminium container, which he had painted in Murobond Bridge Paint. Along with this native tree, housed in another aluminium planter at the other end of the atrium, is a tropical species, an *Aspidistra*, also known as 'cast-iron' plant because of its hardiness. And rounding things off is a hollowed-out tree base, found by Richard on a trip to Turkey, that's home to three aloes, a variety of succulent.

The internal atrium may be separate from the roof terrace, but a trailing succulent, *Rhipsalis* (or 'Mistletoe Cactus'), links the two. It hangs down over the sliding glass doors that open from the living area to the atrium and adds to the greenery, even when the owners are inside. Up on the sun-filled terrace, Richard and his team rehoused the owners' existing plants in more modern containers – aluminium cylinders that they painted in Murobond Bridge Paint in black, grey and an aubergine shade that matches the ones in the atrium. Meanwhile, a collection of succulents in handmade pots by David Edmonds basks in the abundant light that hits the outdoor table.

Looking at this home's relaxed outdoor spaces, it's hard to imagine the lengths that the Garden Life team had to go to, because the trees, planters and materials had to be placed in a very specific way, due to site restrictions. "Logistically, this installation was hard, because those things wouldn't fit through the doors – the trees alone were three or four metres high – so we had crane everything over the top of the house and drop it all in," says Richard. It's another indication that small spaces are not always small jobs. Judging by the results, though, the effort was very much worthwhile.

For more on Richard and Garden Life, visit gardenlife.com.au.

"It was all about putting in things that feel warm and inviting and counteract the concrete and glass" RICHARD UNSWORTH, DIRECTOR, GARDEN LIFE



The roof terrace is separate to the atrium but Richard chose plants, such as rhipsalis, as a common thread between spaces. Care was taken when choosing species that could withstand both full sun and shade, as this zone gets varying levels of sun.

Forget matching – a cluster of striking pots in different shapes and sizes softens the bare white wall.



MAGICAL BREW

Find matcha granola, 'dirty' chai and other caffeinated delights at The Rabbit Hole, a new organic tea bar now open in Sydney's Redfern. Visit therabbithole.com.au for info.

3 GREAT FINDS



'Dark Salted Burnt Caramel' chocolate, $5.99, altereco.com.au.



'Hazelnut Crunch' chocolate, $8.95, liefje.com.au.



'Wild Rosemary & Sea Salt Chilli' chocolate, $14.95, seatonfire.com.

FOOD NEWS

wine & dine

Designer bars and restaurants, insider dining advice and hot new products

WORDS **LEE TRAN LAM**

PHOTOGRAPHY: (THE RABBIT HOLE) KATRINA SHARPE. (LEE HO FOOK) BROOKE HOLM. (GELATO MESSINA BOOK) BRENDAN HOMAN. STYLING: (GELATO MESSINA BOOK) NATALIE HOMAN. ARTWORK: (LEE HO FOOK) DATSUN TRAIN VIA BROMLEY & CO GALLERY

Q+A WITH...



Sat Bains

Chef at Restaurant Sat Bains in Nottingham, England

You're known for a dish where diners literally eat the postcode. Yes, when we first introduced the dish (NG7 2SA), it was with ingredients foraged down the lane from the restaurant and along the riverbank.

You were in Nepal when the recent earthquake struck. Has it changed your outlook? It's made me really appreciate the small things in life. My wife Amanda and I had been considering shifting the business to a four-day week. We're now doing it. The staff all move onto a three-day weekend, without losing out on salaries.

Where do you like to eat in Australia? Restaurant Amusé, Quay, Attica, Vue De Monde, The Press Club, Pope Joan...

What will you be doing at Margaret River Gourmet Escape this year? I'll be cooking with my good mate chef George Calombaris and enjoying the brilliant food and wine.

Sat Bains appears at Margaret River Gourmet Escape; visit gourmetescape.com.au.





ICE COLD

Keep your cool with a copy of *Gelato Messina: The Creative Department* ($55, Hardie Grant Books). Re-create the gelateria's inspired desserts, or try mastering the Yule Log for Christmas.



fresh start

You can now get your fix of Lee Ho Fook's must-order eggplant dish at its new site by Technē Architecture + Interior Design. Visit 11-15 Duckboard Place, Melbourne.

NATURAL GOODNESS Rootstock Sydney, a sustainable food and wine fair, returns to Carriageworks on November 28-29. Visit rootstocksydney.com.

Taste of Melbourne is on November 12-15 at Albert Park, *tasteofmelbourne.com.au*.

sharemystyle



Sarah's living space mixes an overall minimalist look with tactile accessories.

living it up

Congratulations to our #sharemystyleliving category winner!

Sarah de Zoete (@sarahdezoete) has won a $2000 Myer gift card to spend on home entertainment, homewares, furniture, kitchen appliances and travel goods

Here are just a few of our favourite entries in the **#sharemystyleliving** competition category



show us your home & win!

how to enter

Share a pic of your bedroom using both the hashtag **#sharemystylebedroom** and the tag **@insideoutmag** on Instagram or Twitter



This month, you could win a chair, throw and lamp from West Elm, valued at a total of $2027

share via

west elm

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP, FROM LEFT) SARAH DE ZOETE, KYREE MEAGHER, TINA THEODOROU, JUSTINE ASH (BOTTOM) BREE JOHNS. COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS: ENTRIES OPEN AT 00.01 AEDT ON 22/10/15 AND CLOSE AT 23.59 AEDT ON 25/11/15. OPEN TO AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER ONLY. ONE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED AT 14.00 AEDT ON 30/10/15 AT NEWSLIFEMEDIA PTY LTD, LEVEL 1, 2 HOLT STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA THEIR PERSONAL INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER HANDLE. TOTAL PRIZE POOL VALUED AT $2027. FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT INSIDEOUTCOM.AU AND SEARCH FOR 'TERMS NOVEMBER ISSUE'. PRIVACY POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT NEWSCORPAUSTRALIA.PRIVACY.COM

stockists

Here are all the numbers and websites you need to get shopping! Don't be misled by suppliers listing Sydney or Melbourne phone numbers – they are often head offices or distributors who can find a retailer in your area

a-e

Aarden Design instagram.com/aardendesign. **AGA Australia** (03) 9521 4965, agaaustralia.com.au. **Arne Jacobsen** arne-jacobsen.com. **Artedomus** (02) 9557 5060, artedomus.com. **AmbienteDirect.com** ambientedirect.com. **Armadillo&Co** armadillo-co.com. **Astra Walker** (02) 8838 5100, astrawalker.com.au. **Benjamin Moore** benjaminmoore.com. **Bloom & Co** bloomandco.com.au. **Boyd Blue** boydblue.com. **Bundanoon Sandstone** (02) 4883 6179, bsint.com.au. **Byron Bay Tiles** (02) 6685 7784. **Carl F** carlf.dk. **Citta Design** cittadesign.com. **Concrete Blonde** 0417 144 716, concreteblondeinteriors.com. **Country House Antiques** (02) 6687 1601.

d-f

David Edmonds davidedmonds.com.au. **Deborah Paauwe** deborahpaauwe.com. **Down That Little Lane** 0403 999 888, downthatlittlelane.com.au. **East Coast Homes** 0410 466 562, eastcoasthomes.net.au. **Eco Outdoor** 1300 131 413, ecooutdoor.com.au. **Emily Ziz Style Studio** (02) 9380 4180, emilyziz.com. **Euroa Clay Products** (03) 5795 3078, glazedbricks.com. **Euroluce** (02) 9356 9900, euroluce.com.au. **Eveneer** (03) 8555 2235, eltongroup.com/eveneer. **Feliz Home** 0400 977 840, felizhome.com.au. **Fenton & Fenton** (03) 9533 2323, fentonandfenton.com.au. **Fine Earth Joinery** (02) 4353 4112, fineearthjoinery.com.au.

g-i

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PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMELLE HABIB. STYLING: HEATHER NETTE KING

Christmas craft projects

Inspired by the festive touches in our cover story on page 98? Here, stylist Heather Nette King shares her chic craft projects



leather pennant

You will need:

1 x 26cm length of bamboo dowel rod (or similar timber)
Gold spray paint
1 x gold leather rectangle measuring 23cm x 15cm
1 x metallic blue leather rectangle measuring 18cm x 15cm
1 x natural leather rectangle measuring 15cm x 13cm
Pen
Sharp scissors/utility knife
Craft glue
2 x natural leather strips measuring 15cm x 3cm

1. Spray paint the bamboo rod gold and allow to dry.
2. Fold each leather rectangle in half lengthways. Using a pen, draw a curved line from the outer edge of each rectangle, ¾ of the way down, that touches the bottom of the rectangle, meeting at the folded edge. Cut along the line with sharp scissors or craft knife.
3. Layer the pieces (refer to image), glue into place and allow to dry.
4. Fold the two leather strips in half, and glue the short ends together to create hanging loops.
5. Once dry, use glue to attach them to the back of the pennant. Once dry, feed the bamboo rod through the loops and hang the pennant on a wall or doorway.

tree tassel

You will need:

31 x 26cm lengths of gold leather thonging
1 x metallic blue leather strip measuring 10cm x 1cm
Craft glue

1. Take one length of thonging and put it aside. Group and evenly lay the rest of the thonging.
2. Loop the one length of thonging around the middle of the other 30 pieces and fasten to form a tie.
3. Fold the thonging in half, then attach the blue leather strip around it at 2cm from the fold. Fasten this with craft glue then allow to dry before hanging it up on your tree. Repeat this process to fill your tree with more tassels.

customised crown

You will need:

1 x natural leather rectangle measuring 28cm x 8cm
Ruler
Pen
Sharp scissors/utility knife
30cm length of gold leather thonging

1. On the back of the leather rectangle, draw a line lengthways down the middle – this will be the lowest point of the crown's tips. Mark a dot every 3cm along the line.
2. Along the top length of the rectangle, draw a dot every 1.5cm, marking each 3cm increment to show where the high points of the crown's tips should sit.
3. Cut the leather in a zigzag pattern up and down from the 3cm marks on each line to form the crown's points.
4. Make a small slit in the leather at each end, and thread through the gold leather thonging to create ties to fasten the crown.
If you want to make one for every member of your family, try this project using coloured leather.

snowflake gift toppers

You will need:

Snowflake templates downloaded from the internet
Scissors
Pen
A3-sized piece of metallic blue leather
A3-sized piece of gold leather
Utility knife/scalpel
Craft glue
Gold leather thonging

1. Trace your chosen snowflake templates onto the back of the metallic blue and gold leather.
3. Using a utility knife or a scalpel, carefully cut out the snowflakes.
4. Apply glue to the back of your snowflake gift toppers and attach to your wrapped presents.
5. Wrap the leather thonging around the present and fasten at the back.

PROJECTS AND STYLING: HEATHER NETTE KING. PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMELLE HABIB

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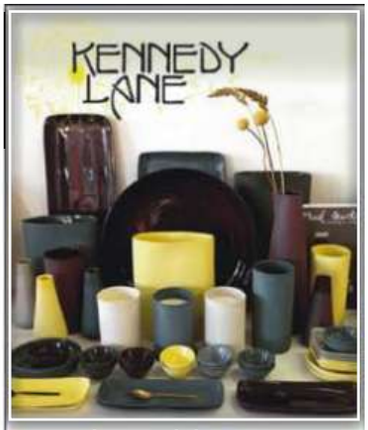
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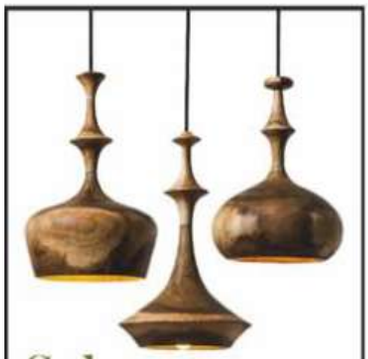
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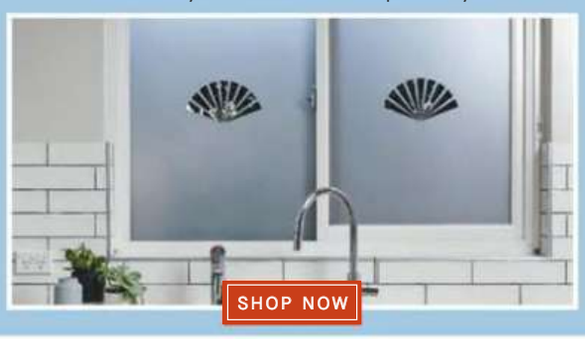
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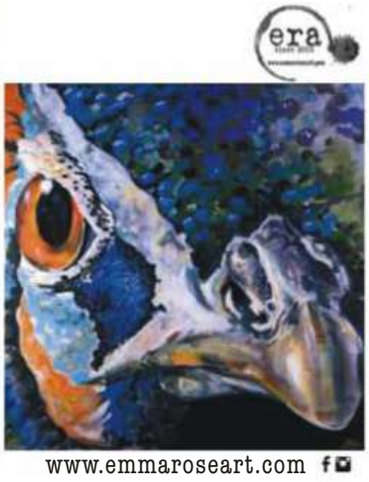


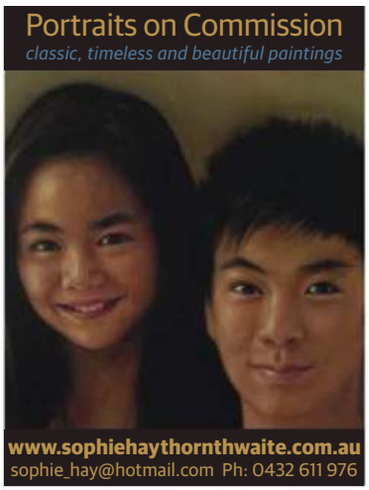




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Ask Megsy

Our Agony Aunt Meg Mason dishes out somewhat questionable style and decorating advice to would-be DIY renovators

We're currently designing our next home and I quite like the idea of a freestanding bath in the parents' retreat bedroom. Are they practical, or will I regret it?

Nikki, Kew, Vic

Were I a doctor, Nikki – and there's no doubt I could have been, had not the call to a life of solving minor interior dilemmas been heard more clearly – I would diagnose you with a certain case of HIRL. In layman's terms, Hotel In Real Life syndrome; a condition which, as the name suggests, makes its sufferers prone to introducing hotel-quality comforts into their own homes.

Relatively common, it's curable if caught early – when the first pile of plump, white bath sheets appears or the usual shampoos and conditioners are replaced by a single bottle of something purporting to be Conditioning Hair and Body Wash with Ylang Ylang.

Many sufferers don't even know they have it, thinking they simply prefer a terry robe with matching slipper mules. Left untreated though, HIRL can lead to the appearance of a chafing dish of American-style pancakes and full-service omelette station in the downstairs dining room (available until 1pm).

To be considering a tub in your bedroom, I would say your case is already advanced. The only cure – a dose of cold fact.

A bath in the bedroom, as we all know, looks amazing. The height of luxury, it speaks of romance, escape and all non-motorised water sports being included. But as a feature of everyday life, they're a decidedly three-star experience.

Dusty, damp-making, exposed to draughts – it won't be long before you're banging out a scathing review of your own parent's retreat on TripAdvisor – "Would Not Go Back!! Nothing like the brochure!!" – accompanied by an off-putting traveller photo of yourself cleaning it with Gumption multipurpose on all fours while hubby dries the surrounding carpet with a theft-proof hair dryer.

Domestic life and hotel-grade luxury simply do not mix, Nikki. Hotels are where we go to get away from it all. Home is where it all is. Or more precisely, home is where your teenage son bursts your temple of indulgence while searching for his charger, forcing you to cover your modesty with the rapidly-thinning bubbles from a tiny vial of what's neither truly shampoo nor body wash.



Ultimately, real home comforts are the greater thing here: bathrooms with doors, full-size sewing kits and coathangers that aren't secured to the pole. So forget the in-room tub, Nikki, and focus on getting well. Also, please note, room towels are not to be used in the pool area.

I'm thinking about upgrading my TV, but there's such a range in price. I don't watch much TV, so how much should I spend?

Miranda, Pymble, NSW

Thankfully, there's a precise metric we can apply here, Miranda. Presuming (I think safely) you're middle class, your TV simply needs to cost less than the sofa that faces it. When the opposite is true, you may find the channel sticks on the NRL highlights and you develop an odd hankering for stuffed-crust pizza every time you sit on what you've suddenly started calling "the lounge".

revive the... scenic placemats A forgotten *objet* ripe for resurgence

Modern tableware has much to recommend it but, unlike the set-of-10 picturesque placemats that anchored the '70s tablescape, it can't transport you from a tense family dinner to a canal boat in northern Europe or the sprawling hills beyond Canterbury Cathedral, via the simple sliding of your plate to one side.

Stay tuned for more of Meg's invaluable renovating tips in our next issue.

ILLUSTRATION: KAT CHADWICK





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